

White House backs off from statement

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House Wednesday appeared to back away from a joint U.S.-Soviet Gulf war peace plan issued by Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said there had been no change in U.S. policy and that President George Bush had not seen the proposal before it was issued late Tuesday. "If there is anybody that has any concerns, we certainly will offer explanations because we are anxious that no one think that we are altering policy in any way," Mr. Fitzwater told reporters. Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker, asked at the start of an oval office meeting with Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras whether the president was angry with the secretary of state, denied any differences. "There are no differences," Mr. Bush said. "He's never been mad at me," said Mr. Baker of the president. The statement, issued shortly before Bush predicted military defeat for Iraq in his state of the union message to congress, offered Iraq another chance to end the war by withdrawing from Kuwait and also pledging to work for a comprehensive Middle East peace once the conflict is over (see story below).

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Amnesty appeals to UN

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, has called on the chairman of the Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) to intervene to put an end to Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. In a statement made to the commission in Geneva, Amnesty recalled that it had repeatedly brought to world attention Israel's "serious and widespread human rights violations" in the occupied territories but Israel has not responded to its pleas and appeals. "Some 14,000 Palestinians, including prisoners of conscience, have been held in administrative detention without charge or trial since December 1987" when the Palestinian uprising erupted, the organisation said (full text of Amnesty statement will be published in Saturday's issue of the Jordan Times).

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Iraqis thrust into S. Arabia, hold Khafji

4 Jordanians killed, others wounded in allied air attacks on oil tankers near border

At least 12 marines killed in fighting

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Wednesday that two columns of its troops launched a lightning attack that routed allied forces along a broad front inside Saudi Arabia.

"The forces of Saddam Hussein are wiping out the renegade invaders and knocking out the forces of infidelity, corruption, and treason," Iraqi Radio said.

U.S. officials said 12 Marines were killed during "hellacious" fighting early Wednesday against a three-pronged Iraqi probe near the Saudi city of Khafji just over the border with Kuwait. The officials said Iraqi losses were high, but gave no specifics.

Iraq's Mother of Battles Radio said that President Saddam, the Revolutionary Command Council and military commanders planned the attack during a meeting last Saturday.

President Saddam visited the troops in Basra Sunday and issued the orders for the plan to field commanders, the radio said.

Iraqi Radio said two columns of troops attacked all along the front with Saudi Arabia, and that one advanced 20 kilometres into the "kingdom of evil" and en-

tered Khafji at midnight (2100 GMT) Tuesday.

"The vanguards of conquest, the vanguards of victory are leveling the positions of the forces of the tyrants... in Khafji," Iraqi radio said.

In a separate commentary later, the radio branded U.S. President George Bush a "loathsome criminal" and an "evil butcher" as it reacted to his state of the union address Tuesday.

"The claims made by Bush about fairness and humanity will remain the hostage of his sick mind... nations, honest people and strugglers know what a loathsome criminal he is," said the radio.

Al Thawra, the newspaper of Iraq's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, also denounced Mr. Bush for declaring in the address that the war against Iraq is just. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the newspaper cited a series of recent bombings of allied interests and warned the attacks could spread to the United States.

Iraqi radio said a heavy barrage of battlefield artillery missiles preceded the Iraqi advance and

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Gulf oil slick grows despite U.S. bombing

Combined agency dispatches

A GIANT OIL slick threatening marine life and drinking water plants in the Gulf is growing despite a U.S. bombing raid which halted the flow of crude from a Kuwaiti terminal, U.S. military sources said Wednesday.

Air Force Captain Barclay Trehal said aerial photography showed thick, black oil was still spewing into the Gulf from other sources in Kuwait and Iraq, adding to what is already the biggest slick in history.

"There is very extensive pollution. It's easily 100 (160 kilometres) miles by 30 (48 km) or 40 (64 km) miles and spreading. It's being spread from various sources," he said.

Allied forces claim Iraq deliberately caused the slick by opening the taps at the Mina Al Ahmadi terminal in Kuwait and dumping crude from five Iraqi tankers.

Iraq blamed the slick on allied raids on its tankers and oil pipelines.

Capt. Trehal said oil was still gushing from a tanker split in half, off derricks, and coastal oil installations in Kuwait and Iraq.

Rocket attacks continue on Israel's 'security zone'

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS fired rockets into Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon on Wednesday but security sources said the attack was retaliatory rather than a strike against Israel in support of Iraq.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the Israeli strikes left several people dead.

The raids, carried out by gunboats and helicopter gunships at the Rashidiyah refugee camp, followed rocket attacks Tuesday on the "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

The PLO said the Israeli raids killed and wounded several people, the number of which hasn't yet been determined.

The declaration pledged that the PLO would exercise its "legitimate right to self-defence."

The statement came as U.N. officials confirmed that Soviet-made Katyusha rockets landed in Israel Wednesday in the security zone.

Israel radio said the Katyushas caused no damage and that the Israeli-backed South Lebanon

More oil pumped

Iraq has started pumping more crude oil into the waters of the northern Gulf to form another oil slick, military sources said Wednesday.

They said pumping had been in progress for some 24 hours from the Iraqi oil terminal of Mina Al Bakr in southern Iraq and many thousands of barrels had been released.

"You can see the oil spewing out into the Gulf and flowing in the current. Oil is coming from coastal oil installations in Kuwait and Iraq," he said.

The oil-swallowing Norwegian ship Al Wasit has begun skimming crude from the slick. Al Wasit, operated by the Oslo-based Norpol Marine Services Co., is believed to be operating north of the world's biggest desalination plant at Jubail.

The ship is capable of sucking 1,400 tonnes of oil an hour from the slick which the Saudis estimate at 80 kilometres long and 20 kilometres wide.

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Two of the Jordanian oil tankers hit in allied attacks near the Iraqi-Jordanian border Tuesday and Wednesday.

U.S., Soviets: War could halt if Iraq commits to withdraw

From Rania Atalla in Washington

THE SUPERPOWERS, finding themselves in the same trench in an alliance after decades of hostilities, are offering to halt the U.S.-led war against Iraq if Baghdad announced a commitment to pull out from Kuwait.

In a joint statement following three days of discussions, Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said that "a cessation of hostilities would be possible if Iraq would make an unequivocal commitment to withdraw from Kuwait." Such a commitment, the statement said, should be backed by "immediate, concrete steps" leading to full compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

"The Iraqi leadership has to respect the will of the international community. By doing so, it has it within its power to stop the violence and bloodshed," the statement read in what appeared to be a joint attempt to lay on Baghdad the onus of the decision to end the war.

The statement also stressed that the U.S. was not seeking to change Iraq's borders, as some analysts may have suggested.

"The United States... poses no threat to Iraq's territorial integrity," it read.

Allied military actions against Iraq were "provoked" by Iraq's refusal to comply with the demands of the international community for withdrawal from Iraq, the statement said. A high priority for the two countries once the Gulf conflict is over is to establish peace and stability, including dealing with "the causes of instability and the sources of conflict," according to the statement.

Both ministers agreed that the sources of conflict in the region cannot be dealt with without a meaningful peace process — one which "promotes a just peace, security, and reconciliation for Israel, Arab states, and Palestinians."

"The ministers said the two superpowers could contribute to a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, but the statement would not go as far as indicating a U.S.-Soviet consensus regarding an international peace conference on the Middle East. The statement said that two ministers agreed that in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, "mutual U.S.-Soviet efforts to promote Arab-Israeli peace and regional stability, in consultation with other parties in the region, will be greatly facilitated and enhanced."

"Some analysts have read Tuesday's statement as a significant step for its attempt to establish 'definite indirect linkage' between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian question."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Wednesday accused the United States of ignoring Israel in discussions with the Soviet Union on a post-war reshaping of the Middle East.

"I would say that we find fault in this in that a political action was taken here that touches us, our fate, our

future, without consulting us, without telling us first that they are going to do it," Mr. Shamir said.

He said he did not detect any shift in U.S. policy, but that he had not studied the U.S.-Soviet statement closely.

Shamir said the statement did not indicate any shift in the U.S. refusal to link the Israel-Arab conflict with a resolution of the Gulf crisis.

"There are no new principles beyond what they have said and what was known," Mr. Shamir told reporters.

However, Shimon Perez of the opposition Labour Party said it was an illusion to believe the disputes were not linked, and called on Israel to take the initiative to prevent a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict from being imposed from outside.

President George Bush meanwhile got another chance to define the U.S.'s role in what he calls the new international order and to explain the U.S. administration's conception of stability and security in the Middle East.

"Let me make clear what I mean by the region's stability and security. We do not seek the destruction of Iraq, its culture, or its people... We seek a 'Persian Gulf' where conflict is no longer the rule, where the strong are neither tempted nor able to intimidate the weak," Mr. Bush said in his State or the Union address to the American people Tuesday evening.

Mr. Bush's address to the nation is regarded one of the most important speeches of his presidency, coming as it does at a time of economic recession in the U.S. and when the country

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Masri: Jordan reserves right to respond if attack is repeated

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four Jordanians were killed and 10 others were injured when U.S. and allied jet fighters attacked and burnt several civilian Jordanian vehicles and nine oil tankers inside Iraqi territory Tuesday and Wednesday, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said.

Jordan Television said that His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, called at the King Hussein Medical City Wednesday evening to see the injured people being treated there. The King wished them speedy recovery.

Mr. Masri told parliament's Wednesday session that he summoned the U.S. ambassador to Jordan and presented him with an official protest. Mr. Masri said he told the ambassador, Roger Harrison, that the attack violated the Geneva Conventions. "We have an agreement with the U.N. that excludes our oil imports from Iraq," Mr. Masri said. "If this (attack) intended to make us change our position, it will not do, we will keep to our principles."

Over the past two days, the minister said, several air raids were launched on civilian vehicles within Iraqi territory resulting in the death of the four Jordanians and "probably an Egyptian national" travelling to Jordan.

Five oil tanker trucks were destroyed Tuesday and four other

tankers and numerous civilian cars coming to Jordan from Iraq or Kuwait were destroyed Wednesday, the minister noted.

He said the attack came despite the fact that the cars and the tankers were clearly Jordanian and travelling along the international highway linking Iraq with Jordan during daytime.

"The warplanes which attacked the convoys of cars and the evacuees must have known what they were doing," the minister added.

The minister said that he also summoned the ambassadors of the other four U.N. Security Council member nations to present Jordan's strong protest against the raids.

He said that he would also meet with the Italian, Romanian and Austrian ambassadors on Thursday for the same purpose. Italy is participating with the allied forces, while Romania and Austria are current members of the Security Council, the minister explained.

Mr. Masri said further that he

(Continued on page 5)

King visits GHQ

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday visited the Armed Forces Headquarters where he was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants, the commander of the air force and the inspector general. King Hussein held a meeting with Gen. Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces. Prime Minister Mudarr Badran attended part of the meeting.

King Hussein also visited the Special Forces where he was briefed on the duties assigned to the forces.

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Iraq's heavily-bombed elite troops stay down but not out

By Gilles Trequesser
Reuters

A U.S. AIRBASE IN GULF — Iraq's elite Republican guards, prime target of allied bombing, are so deeply entrenched in southern Iraq that only a ground campaign will show if they have been smashed, a U.S. air commander said Tuesday.

The cream of Iraq's armed forces, the 150,000-man Republican Guard would have a devastating effect on the morale of the rest of Iraq's one-million strong armed forces.

Col. Rietsch agreed the constant bombing probably had a demoralising effect on the troops which U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has described as "the heart of the regime" of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"I don't know what it will have done to them to have bombs rain on them 24 hours a day," Rietsch said.

But he said all allied forces could do was to demoralise them "take away some of their supplies and reduce their numbers somewhat."

According to him, the guards still had surface-to-air missiles and much of their armour.

But he dismissed them as a real threat as long as they remained dug in. "They're a potential force but not really a military force until they're employed — and to be employed they have to come out of hiding," he said.

Marine Colonel Bill McMullen, an F/A-18 Hornet pilot and squadron commander of the "Death Angels," said the Republican Guard was a key target but noted "it's a large force and it's a big desert."

He said battle damage assessment was difficult.

"When you're bombing infantry and armoured brigades that can disperse across the desert, it's hard to assess," he said, returning from a bombing mission inside Kuwait.

Col. Rietsch said U.S. planes, including B-52 bombers, were hitting the Republican Guard with 225-kg and 450-kg cluster bombs.

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Col. Rietsch said some tanks had been destroyed "but not a large quantity yet" and stressed that "a ground campaign will be the only way to find out" the real impact of the air strikes.

U.S. administration officials believe that crushing the Republican Guard would have a devastating effect on the morale of the rest of Iraq's one-million strong armed forces.

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Two Somali community leaders — Mohammad Ali Omar (left) of the Hawiye clan and Ismail Mohammad Hamdullah of the Ishaq clan —



address Somali refugees stranded in Amman at a gathering to mark the ouster of President Mohammad Siad Barre.

Somali refugees rejoice over ouster of Siad Barre, hope for new Somalia

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Somali nationals stranded in Jordan are celebrating the toppling of the regime of President Mohammad Siad Barre and are looking forward to returning home to resume normal life under a civilian democratic government.

"It is fantastic news the regime is ousted," said Ismail Abdullah Hamdullah, who worked as an administrative officer for a Kuwaiti company before the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"Our anxiety over the past three weeks is over and our dreams have come true," said Mr. Hamdullah, 38, who arrived here from Kuwait in August and sought political asylum in a third country through the United Nations in view of the "insecurity and political instability" in his Horn of Africa nation.

Mr. Hamdullah, designated by members of his Isaaq clan now in Jordan as their spokesman, described as "terrifying, inhuman and brutal" the regime of Mr. Siad Barre, who fled the country Monday after rebels gained control of the capital in an offensive launched Dec. 30.

"No description is too mean to describe the regime," said Mr. Hamdullah, father of three. "Siad Barre has been violating every human right and oppressing the Somalis for

decades."

"Since Monday we have got together and are celebrating the ouster of the dictator," he said.

Mr. Hamdullah also expressed hope that a "new civilian, democratically elected government" would be in place in Mogadishu soon.

"We cannot wait to get back to our homeland," he said.

About two million of the eight million Somalis are believed to be outside the country, mostly at refugee camps in neighbouring Ethiopia.

Mr. Hamdullah, who had been trying to join his wife and children in Ethiopia before Mr. Siad Barre was toppled, said one of the fundamentals for any new government in Somalia should be "a clear course away from any kind of tribalism."

"Tribalism was a weapon used by Siad Barre to serve his purposes and divide the people of Somalia," he said. "There are many clans and sub-clans in the country and this was exploited by the ousted regime to continue to hang on to power," he said.

Mr. Siad Barre, 80, who was reported to be in Kenya after fleeing his presidential palace Monday, belongs to the Marehan clan of central Somalia. The Marehans had been traditional rivals of the Ishaq clan in the north and the Hawiye clan in the south.

The ouster of the president, who took power after a military coup in 1969, came after the various tribes and clans joined forces to fight his forces.

Mohammad Ali Omar, 40, another Somali refugee who belongs to the Hawiye clan, expressed hope that "all the Somali people now in Jordan could go home and start rebuilding the country."

Mr. Omar, who said he was working as a clerk in a Kuwaiti company before fleeing the emirate following the Iraqi invasion, also cautioned against any tribe-oriented power structure in a "new Somalia."

Several other Somali nationals echoed similar opinion.

"It is time for us all Somalis to bury all our differences and start a new future," said Mr. Omar, who, like Mr. Hamdullah, was seeking help from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to go to Ethiopia and rejoin his wife and four children.

The Somali community in pre-invasion Kuwait had a strength of 1,700. Over half of them have already left through Jordan for various countries after fleeing the emirate.

U.N. figures show 444 Somali nationals remaining in Jordan; 154 of them in the transit camp at Azraq and the rest in apartments and hotels in Amman under the care of UNHCR. The refugees evenly represent the Ishaq and Hawiye clans.

The problems of the Somalis who dreaded going back to their strife-torn country under the Siad Barre regime were further compounded by a government order which declared their passports null and void. This order had led to the non-recognition of the passports by airlines.

"We hope the new government in Mogadishu will repeal this order so that we can travel home as soon as the air and seaports reopen," said Mr. Omar. "In any event, we leave it to the UNHCR to sort out this problem since it is better qualified to contact the government and do the needful," he added.

Francesco Gallindo, chief of mission of the UNHCR in Amman, also voiced optimism for a happy conclusion for the problem of the Somalis stranded in Jordan — a major question which has been eluding answer in view of the fact that there are only one or two countries which would accept Somali nationals.

"We are waiting to assess the situation in Mogadishu to see when and how these people could go home," Mr. Gallindo told the Jordan Times.

Living under Israeli army curfew in the West Bank

By Sami Aboud
Reuters

RAMALLAH — "Daddy, is the war over now?" asked my five-year-old son when the radio announced after the first Iraqi missile attack that people could leave their sealed rooms.

We explained why he could go out while Iraqi Scuds were flying overhead towards Israel. Waleed seemed to grasp this. But neither he nor my other children understand why they have been imprisoned in their own home for nearly two weeks.

Why couldn't they visit relatives and friends, why was Babba, our grocer, not open. "Why can't we go for a drive in the car. I want to buy candy from Babba," Jawad, 3, kept demanding.

Coping with children and boredom have been two major headaches of the house arrest which Israel has imposed on all 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since the Gulf war broke out.

The curfew, the longest and most strictly enforced of the three-year-old Palestinian uprising, is to prevent pro-Iraqi demonstrations and unrest, Israel says.

The monotony of staring at four walls, the television, the kids and back to the walls has been mind-numbing.

Put so much as a foot outside the door and you risk being arrested, beaten or shot. Soldiers have shot in the air to get their message across in many towns.

White soldiers were less often on patrol in my home town, Ramallah, than elsewhere, the air was tense. When a mother was shot dead by an army bullet on the balcony of her home in Nablus the news spread quickly.

After war broke out, the first thing we heard was this: "Residents of Ramallah, it is forbidden to wander around until further notice. Anyone who violates the curfew will be risking his life."

An Arabic-speaking soldier cried out the warning from the loudspeaker of a military jeep. Initially we shrugged it off. It was not the first curfew we had known. We took in our stride the fact that most of us Palestinians did not have gas masks while Israelis, including Jewish settlers living among us, did have them.

As the days wore on meals without fresh vegetables grew tedious, the children grew restive and our crops grew untended.

Cut off from the outside world, small domestic mishaps took on the proportions of a crisis. Even catching a cold posed a problem. In theory we could shoot for a soldier and ask him to let us go for medicine. In practice the mistrust between occupier and occupied is so great that few risked it.

Ramallah residents, who like most Palestinians had pinned hopes on Iraq standing up to the United States, Israel's main ally, were stunned by what appeared to be the imminent destruction of Iraq in the first days of the war.

The misery and disappointment were pierced only by constant shots by Palestinian activists, when the radio announced Iraqi missile strikes on Israel.

On Sunday, Jawad was able to get his candy when the army lifted the curfew for three hours.

People quickly filled the streets and snapped up the few tomatoes, eggplant and baby marrows on offer. Some vegetables and fruit had started to rot after five days in stores without refrigerators.

With no air raid sirens in town, people use whistles to warn neighbours of missile attacks.

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The misery and disappointment were pierced only by constant shots by Palestinian activists, when the radio announced Iraqi missile strikes on Israel.

On Sunday, Jawad was able to get his candy when the army lifted the curfew for three hours.

People quickly filled the streets and snapped up the few tomatoes, eggplant and baby marrows on offer. Some vegetables and fruit had started to rot after five days in stores without refrigerators.

With no air raid sirens in town, people use whistles to warn neighbours of missile attacks.

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French soldiers complain of conditions in Saudi desert

PARIS (AP) — Military officials said Tuesday that French soldiers who complained they were miserable and lacked supplies and even purpose might be punished for making unauthorized comments to reporters.

French soldiers in Saudi Arabia, interviewed Monday on French TV, painted a wretched picture of life in the field.

Four soldiers said TF1's evening newscast that they "didn't know why" they were in the Gulf region in the first place and that they were chronically short of supplies.

"There's nothing here, we don't have enough water or food, it comes when it comes," one of the soldiers said. "We haven't had a shower in five days."

None of the troops interviewed was identified by name.

"The worst is that they don't tell us anything," a second soldier said.

The night the war broke out we went on alert nine times but only found out at 7:00 the next morning that the Americans had attacked Baghdad, even though (our) captain knew everything."

During alerts for Iraqi-launched Scud missiles, "We don't know where they're heading, whether they're for us or not," the soldier said. "We only hear about it the next day on the radio."

Another said bluntly: "I don't see the point of going and getting blown up. There's nothing for us to do here."

TF1 reported that the four were astonished to hear of the groundswell of public support for French participation in the Gulf war.

Public opinion polls late last week indicated more than 70 per cent of the people approve of France's engagement in the Gulf war.

An unidentified military official brushed aside the soldiers' comments, telling the French news agency AFP that the four were only "drivers of logistical trucks" belonging to French forces deployed in the Saudi desert.

Patrick Poivre D'Arvor, the anchorman for TF1's main evening newscast, noted in the broadcast that "it was the first time we were able to interview French soldiers without someone looking over our backs."

He was referring to strict regulations on news reporting, similar to those put in place by the U.S. military, that require an escort to accompany reporters talking to military personnel. Only specified soldiers or officers may be interviewed, according to

the French rules. Even asking a person's name or hometown can be grounds for denying further access to troops.

"Some punishment may be ordered for violating the obligation ... not to speak to journalists," an armed forces spokesman said Tuesday.

"But the things they said that are susceptible to punishment weren't that bad," he added.

Another military source said, "these soldiers who belong to a unit moving about by truck across Saudi Arabia are isolated and live in conditions considerably less comfortable than those who are based in one place."

They have only been in Saudi Arabia for a few weeks, said the official, who would not be identified. "If any punishment is forthcoming, it will be decided on in the coming days."

An Arab-American student was beaten by a man last week on his way home from the University of Toledo.

Some Arab-American business have received telephone and mail threats since the war began, said Keith Mitchell, director of the city's board of community relations.

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Fishermen say U.S. navy bigger threat than oil slick

By Peter Bale
Reuters

MUHARRAQ, Bahrain — Gulf fishermen say the U.S. navy poses a bigger threat to their livelihood than history's biggest oil slick, bearing 11 million barrels of crude towards Bahrain.

Gulf governments say the oil unleashed into the waterway in the war with Iraq could jeopardise fishing and wildlife for decades, but the fishermen are oblivious to the danger.

"We don't see oil yet. We see it only on TV. We think this oil will not come to us," said fisherman Salah Al Jahalma.

Their biggest worry is having their dhows turned back from traditional fishing grounds close to Iran by allied naval ships enforcing the United Nations blockade of Iraq.



LAID SIREN: Education Minister Abdullah Al-Khalil watches an evacuation drill at Al Nuzha Secondary Vocational School for Girls. Evacuation drills were held Wednesday at all schools in the Kingdom to examine their preparedness for any emergency situation. The Ministry of Education

has recently formed a guidance committee whose task would be to follow-up the schools' civil defence preparations. All schools in the Kingdom were classified either as shelters or evacuation and first aid centres.

Palestine ambassador tightens Gulf war-Palestine linkage

AMMAN (Petra) — Since the beginning of the American aggression on Iraq on Jan. 17, the Israeli authorities have been imposing a blanket curfew on occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and revoking 1.75 million people on going to work or conducting business to earn their livelihood, according to Palestine Ambassador to Jordan, Abdul Tayyeh Abdul Rahim.

The ambassador said that the Israelis have at the same time launched an arrest campaign throughout the occupied territories, detaining hundreds of young men, writers, academics, and workers.

Sari Nusseibeh, Faisal Husseini and Sheikh Mohammad Al-Jamal are among the prominent Palestinian personalities arrested in the recent campaign designed to intimidate the local population, he said.

By so doing, the Israelis have underlined the linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine

question and by escalating repressive measures against the Palestinians, the Zionists have proved that their measures to suppress the intifada were futile, said the ambassador in a statement here Wednesday.

Referring to the situation in southern Lebanon, Abdul Rahim said that Israeli forces and war planes have been maintaining constant attacks on the Palestinian people living there and the clashes between the local population and the Palestinians on the one hand and the Israelis on the other have rarely ceased during the Gulf crisis.

As the aggression continues on Iraq, the Israelis have maintained their brutal attacks on southern Lebanon's Palestinian camps thus proving to the world the active participation of the Israeli enemy in the ongoing onslaught on Iraq, the ambassador added.

Asked on the role of the United Nations to provide protection to the Palestinians, the

ambassador said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has lately sent out notes to the U.N. secretary-general drawing the attention of the Security Council members to the danger inherent in the continued curfews and the acts of terrorism exercised by the Israeli government and Jewish settlers.

Asked to comment on reports that the Israeli authorities were preventing the return of the Palestinians from Jordan to their homeland under occupation, the ambassador said that the measures were part of the ongoing harassments and inhuman treatment on the part of Israel.

Earlier reports said that the Palestinians under Israeli rule have been prevented from harvesting their crops and that many of the sick were dying while food supplies were running short.

According to the ambassador, the Palestinians' losses from such practices were estimated at \$30 million.

Thousands march, chant against U.S.; hail Iraqi thrust into Saudi Arabia

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thousands of pro-Iraqi demonstrators marched in downtown Amman Wednesday chanting anti-American slogans and calling on Iraqi troops to sweep down through Saudi Arabia.

"Forward Forward O Saddam; from Al Khafji to Damman," shouted the estimated 10,000 protesters in central areas of the capital.

The march coincided with reports that Iraqi troops and tanks had thrust into Saudi Arabia and were fighting U.S. and allied forces around the town of Khafji, south of the Kuwait border with Saudi Arabia.

Damman lies about 300 kilometers south of Khafji along the Saudi coast.

"We are all ready to sacrifice our souls for Iraq," chanted the protesters in the march which was organized by the National Youth Federation in Jordan.

The marchers, who walked from Abdali to King Hussein and King Faisal streets towards Al Hashemi street downtown carried posters and portraits of His Majesty King Hussein together with pictures of the Iraqi and

Palestine presidents and Jordanian, Iraqi and Palestinian flags. The posters carried slogans calling for death to America and its agents in the region.

Upon reaching Al Hashemia Plaza, downtown Amman, the marchers burnt American flags as women on top of the surrounding buildings ululated.

Parliament member Hosni Al Shiyal addressed the marchers stressing that the Arab masses would never kneel before the invaders.

Another deputy, Fakhri Kawar, delivered another address underlining Jordan's absolute support for Iraq and paying tribute to the Iraqi people and armed forces.

"The time has come for Arabs to deal with the enemies who have desecrated Arab land and holy shrines," said Kawar.

He demanded that Arab governments listen to the voice of their masses and back Iraq's efforts to attain victory over the invading forces.

Other speakers included Munir Sharaiah, from the Jordanian Committee for the Support of the Palestinian Intifada, and Mohammad Numan, member of the executive committee of the National Youth Federation.



Demonstrators march in downtown Amman Wednesday.

German parliamentarians decry war on Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two German parliamentarians, now on a visit to Jordan, Wednesday described the war on Iraq as a crime against humanity which must stop immediately. They note that the German people and parliament believe that problems cannot be solved through wars.

Vera Wollenberger from the Alliance 1990 the Greens Party and Christoph Matchie of the Socialist Democratic Party said that intensive search must be made for a solution to all the problems of the Middle East region.

The war being waged on Iraq is horrible and must stop by all means so that a peaceful settlement can be found, said the two parliamentarians at a meeting with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arahayat and House members.

Wollenberger said the ecological effects of the war would be devastating to the whole world. She told Arahayat that the team's visit here was to gather information about the problem and to closely study the situation in order to prepare for intensive parliamentary action to stop this devastating war.

German embassy officials said the two parliamentarians, who arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan, Wednesday visited Azraq camp to study the condition of the evacuees who had fled the war zone in the Gulf.

Arahayat told the team that Jordan has been exerting all possible efforts to contain the crisis and end the hostilities. What is happening now is a capital crime in which the Iraqi people are being massacred while the world only watches the killing and the destruction without lifting a finger to stop the aggression, Arahayat noted at the meeting.

He said that the U.S.-led alliance had been emphasizing the need to evict Iraqi forces from Kuwait, but they were raiding civilian targets in Iraq instead in a flagrant defiance of all humanitarian principles and in a clear show of intention to devastate Iraq and serve Zionism's interests.

Arahayat told the team that the Arab and Islamic peoples of the world had been waiting to see the so-called new world order, hoping to find in it an end to the old colonial policies and a restoration of the rights of all people, but they are now witnessing the process of achieving the ambitious designs of the imperialist countries.

He urged the German parliament to work towards ending the war and lifting injustices done to Third World countries.

House members also addressed the meeting calling on the German parliament to help end the air raids and the aggression on Iraq.

Germany, being a member of the European Community and the European Parliament, should play a genuine role in support of peace, they said.

Parliament members said the Arab and Islamic nations believe in and aspire for peace and they appreciate the German people's pro-peace demonstrations but deplore the German government's official role specially its pledge to provide Israel with assistance to maintain its hold over occupied Arab territories.

Following the meeting in parliament Wollenberger and

Matchie said the meeting was very useful and frank.

They said that the two sides' views were identical and they have agreed to follow up efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis as soon as possible.

The two German parliamentarians stressed the importance of the Arab Nation's role in this crisis and underlined the need for an international peace conference to settle all issues in the region.

They also expressed hope that European nations in general, and Germany in particular, would do their utmost to stop the aggression.

They also said that they will exert all efforts to persuade the Bonn government to refrain from any involvement in the ongoing hostilities.

They appealed to the rich nations of the world to provide assistance to the Third World countries and to help them solve their problems instead of spending millions of dollars on waging wars.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the two German parliamentarians as expressing their concern over the war on Iraq and calling for an immediate ceasefire to offer the chance to peace mediators to reach a settlement.

Sweden announces aid to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sweden has announced an aid programme to help countries directly affected by the Gulf conflict and to enable international organisations carry out their humanitarian services to evacuees and displaced people.

According to a statement by a Swedish Embassy in Amman, a Swedish government will donate an additional \$3 million in support of the regional humanitarian plan of action presented by the United Nations organisation

in Geneva on Jan. 11. The plan includes assistance to refugees in Iraq's neighbour countries.

"The Swedish funds will contribute to a U.N. guarantee to Jordan and other countries in the area to take charge of costs of living and onward transport for refugees in the wake of the Gulf war."

Sweden will also contribute \$4.5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its plans to protect and support

prisoners of war and to provide medical care for war victims and refugees.

Before these recent decisions, Sweden had donated around \$21 million for refugee relief and repatriation, primarily towards evacuees who have come through Jordan.

Sweden also recently granted \$10 million in support of Jordan's balance of payments and for IBRD development projects here, directly related to the negative economic effects of the Gulf crisis.

Evacuees repatriation picks up momentum

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Departure from Jordan of evacuees from Iraq and wait has picked up momentum last two weeks after the Gulf broke out and all indications that most of the 3,500 refugees would be home by next week, an international relief official said Wednesday.

eter Schatzler, chief of mission for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said two charter flights, bound for Jordan carrying Sudanese nationals were continuing from Amman, and two other flights scheduled to carry home 456 as from Aqaba on Thursday Friday.

Refugees seeking repatriation through IOM numbered around 1,938 Sudanese, 735 Indian, 111 Egyptians, 78 Bangladeshi, 45 Sri Lankans, 30 Tunisians, 153 Yemenis and 317 nationalities including 26 Indians.

In addition, 444 Somalis seeking political asylum in a third country remained in the transit camps and privately housed and hotels in the Amman. The 26 Indians are believed to be seeking political refuge in Europe.

figures do not include today's arrivals from across Jordan.

hundred and sixty three Indians were at a camp in Amman awaiting the arrival of a red Aeroflot flight to Bombay, Schatzler said. The flight return to Aqaba Thursday and fly to Bombay where Indians, Sri Lankans and Pakistanis will disembark, and then to Dhaka, India, with the Bangladeshis.

Sri Lankans and Pakistanis home aboard regular flights from Bombay.

The Aeroflot flights were delayed by 48 hours awaiting clearance from the Indian authorities, Mr. Schatzler said. He expressed hope that there would be no further delays.

"There are three airplanes — Argentine, Moroccan and Norwegian — now engaged by the U.N., and any one of them could be used for further charters whenever necessary," he told the Jordan Times.

Francesco Gallindo of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the Somalis seeking political asylum in a third country were awaiting further developments in their country after a civil rebellion overthrew former president Mohammad Siad Barre. A new president was named Tuesday.

"We are hopeful that arrangements could be made soon for the repatriation of some of the Somalis to their own country," Mr. Gallindo said.

The UNHCR official also said the 26 Indians were already given refugee status by the Baghdad office of the commission before it was closed in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The Amman office "will pick up from where the Baghdad office left off and continue procedures to repatriate the Indians," he told the Jordan Times.

Most of the Indians are believed to be members of the main rebel movement, Mujahideen-e-Khalq, which operated out of Baghdad towards the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

Most of the movement's leaders are already out of Iraq following the agreement between Tehran and Baghdad to make peace in August this year.

However, the office of the Mujahideen in Paris is still functioning and the Jordan Times received at least three communications from the Paris office in December.

MSF shows readiness to expand aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Netherlands based humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) announced here Wednesday that its clinic, set up at Ruweished last September, was ready to give medical treatment to victims of chemical weapons and that the group could, if need be, set up specialised clinics in other areas of Jordan to offer free medical assistance.

The group's leader, Julius Peters, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that his clinic has been offering continued services, benefiting nearly 1000 evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq since September 1990.

The clinic at Ruweished, he said, is manned by two physicians, a Jordanian and a Dutch, two female nurses and six assistants and technicians.

Should matters aggravate, the group can set up other clinics elsewhere in Jordan and bring in further amounts of medical equipment and medicines, announced Peters, who is regional coordinator for MSF.

He said his group was in close cooperation with the government-appointed Evacuees Affairs Committee, local and international organisations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Medicines Sans Frontieres is also willing to send medical equipment and medicines to any country or person in need regardless of race or nationality, since the group operates on purely humanitarian basis and has nothing to do with politics, he noted.

Peters said any doctor from any country can join MSF provided he had worked on voluntary basis with the group for at least six months; and he noted, that the group does not offer any salaries to its members but issues them pocket money to cover their personal expenses.

MSF offers medical assistance to people exposed to natural disasters, famine and disease and to those living in areas not receiving proper or regular health services.

Pope renews call for end to hostilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Holiness Pope John Paul II has issued a new appeal to the world to help establish peace and end the war in the Gulf region, according to the representative of the Apostolic delegation in Amman, Monsignor Raouf Najjar.

The Pope has demanded that those responsible for the war in the Gulf should end the hostilities as soon as possible, Dr. Raouf Najjar said. The deep sadness and concern which we expressed over the war in the Gulf still persists, and has increased with the continuation of the war and the battles which can only bring about further disasters and sufferings to the civilian population, according to the Pope's message.

The Pope said: "The civilian and military losses in this devastating war should prompt every one to pray to God for help and mercy and to seek enlightenment to those in responsible positions to seek justice and to opt for dialogue and discussion to end the fighting."

Agence France Presse (AFP), meanwhile, said that in his address to the congregation during a mass Wednesday, the Pope asked the world to pray so that the decision makers would reach a formula for peace through negotiations.

Palestinian education body protests resumption of EC support to Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Gahi Baramki, the chairman of the Palestinian Council for Higher Education in the occupied territories, sent a letter to the representative of the European Community (EC) in Jerusalem protesting the resumption of EC support to Israel and asked him to convey the concern of the council to the appropriate EC authorities.

In the letter, grave concern was expressed at Jan. 25 decision of the EC to end up all sanctions against Israel and in particular the reinstatement of a number of scientific cooperation agreements.

The council's understanding, according to Baramki, is that these agreements were frozen in January 1990 to protest a specific violation, namely the closure of Palestinian universities in the occupied territories by the Israeli military authorities.

This violation, Baramki says, still persists and that four out of the six Palestinian universities have now been closed for three full years.

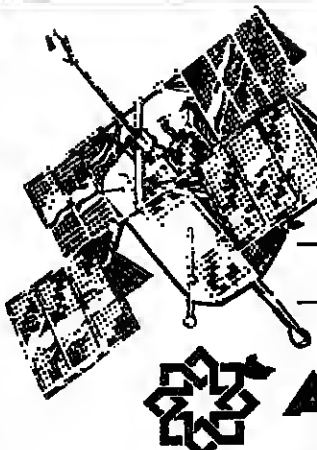
Therefore, Baramki says, the decision of the European Community is both puzzling and disturbing.

Baramki affirmed that the decision seems to undermine the European Community's stated

position on the pre-requisites of a just peace. The public position of the member states of the EC includes commitments to Israeli security and Palestinian rights. The council feels that this decision serves neither commitment, but rather makes the unfortunate equation that an erosion of Palestinian rights constitutes a gesture of support for Israel.

Baramki continued by saying that the decision lays the European Community open to the charge of double standards in the respect and enforcement of international law. Surely, Baramki says, there has never been a more appropriate time for the Community to assert clearly its stand against any state's violation of the rights of populations under its control, particularly in the context of military occupation.

Finally, Baramki urged the European Community both to reconsider its decision and to seek additional venues to protect Palestinian rights, and insure the security of the Palestinian population under occupation.



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Brutality vs. law

"IF INTERNATIONAL law were to be conceived as an exclusive Western system which excludes the vast majority of mankind," an American intellectual once wrote, "it has no creative potential for solving difficult problems. The United Nations Charter, as the fundamental law of the organized world community, repudiates such an exclusivist conception of international law."

The same concept presumably applies to international treaties, like the Geneva conventions, which illegitimize and ban armies from attacking civilians in times of war. The U.S. and its military allies are fighting Iraq supposedly in defence of international law and legitimacy. But when their bombs start falling on civilian targets, easily identifiable targets, there can be no doubt that people will begin to question their real motives and reasons behind waging the war against Iraq.

The fact that Jordanians had been sceptical from the beginning about the Bush administration's true objectives in building up and preparing for war in the Gulf might have been responsible for those bombing raids against Jordanian civilian trucks and cars crossing from Iraq into the Kingdom. But if this is really the case, then that international law which the Americans have come here to uphold is no more than the law of the jungle which we all abhor. This is for the simple reason that people's feelings are not the same as governments' actions, and then because this country's official stance has always been against war and bloodshed and totally committed to playing the humanitarian role that somebody has had and will continue to play in this conflict.

It is of course possible that the American commanders in the Gulf have had other reasons for instructing their aircraft pilots to attack Jordanian vehicles transporting people and oil into the Kingdom. Their frustration about missing Iraqi military targets may be one of them. Severing all remaining links between Iraq and the rest of the world could be another. The most plausible explanation for the naked aggression, however, appears to be that of a concerted effort by the Americans and their coalition partners to pressure Jordan into submitting to their will and dictates insofar as this war in this region is going.

Whatever the reason is behind this inexplicable and unjustified attack against innocent people, Jordan, as Foreign Minister Taher Masri told Parliament last night, will not shift course and will continue to stick to its principled position of opposing this mad and pointless war. But if the rest of the world needed proof that the Americans are bombing not only military targets in Iraq but also civilians and population centres, it need not go any further than looking at the pictures from the Baghdad-Amman highway over the past three days. The death of four innocent Jordanians and the wounds of so many others are, will always be, a tragic reminder of the unspeakable brutality America & Co. has committed in launching its war against Iraq.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday described the French defence minister's resignation as a way of apology to the French people who do not support their government's aggression on the Iraqi people and the honorable Arab people who did not betray their nation. The resignation came as an apology because the French minister realised that his country is waging a dirty war on an Arab country with which it is linked by economic and social ties, the paper added. The French defence minister was another casualty of this war which he considered as a conspiracy designed to destroy the Iraqi people and their economic and social life, and as the minister realised that his country is subservient to Washington and the American interests, the paper said. The resignation meant that France should not continue its involvement in this dirty and inhuman war and remain hostage to the U.S. whims and desires, said the paper. It noted that France succeeded in building up very strong relations with the Arabs over the past three decades from the moment Charles de Gaulle decided that his troops cannot win the war in Algeria. The French defence minister, the paper said, has resigned in an attempt to discontinue France's participation in this criminal war on the Arab Nation. Though we are frustrated with the official French policy with regard to the war, yet, said the paper, we cannot but salute the outgoing French minister for his courageous and brave move.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday launches a bitter attack on the Saudi regime and expresses belief that the backward Arab regimes like that in Riyadh are now fighting their last battles hoping that the American will come out victorious. Tareq Masarweh notes that the Saudi Arabian regime in Riyadh has squandered Arab money on the enemy represented in the U.S.-led coalition and on Israel. Furthermore, the Saudis have closed the border with Jordan, stopped oil supplies to the Kingdom and is driving out Jordanian expatriates. The last thing the Saudis have done to damage inter-Arab relations, he says, is levelling accusation on Jordan that it is smuggling Iraqi rockets in refrigerated trucks. The writer also notes that Saudi customs officials in Jeddah stole the goods bound for Aqaba which had been dumped in the Saudi port when the cargo vessels coming to Aqaba were blocked by the allied war ships, and that the Saudi Arabian press is instigating the allied forces to bombard Jordanian mosques, churches, schools, factories, homes and economic installations. He says that the Saudi regime has reached the point of no return in its dealings with other Arab countries, and its days are numbered.

Victory in the Gulf war does not mean attaining peace

By Dr. Saleh Rusheidat

THE U.S. administration started the Gulf war under the flagrant slogan (destroying the Iraqi military power now is better than facing this might five years from now), and with the hope of fulfilling the new American strategy and its objectives in the region. But only days after the start of the war the world began to ask questions about the real purpose of such a war which has so far proved America's miscalculations and the uncertainty of its consequences and results.

Turning our attention to the outcome of the first round of this war which precedes the ground battles, we find that the main axes of the military operations have failed to achieve their purpose and showed that Iraq came out victorious.

The American-allied nations axis is to be regarded as the largest and most formidable in the world's history. This axis has secured the greatest world political support, backed by U.N. Security Council resolutions, but it lost the political battle when it declared war on Iraq, and proved incapable of fully grasping world problems in general and regional issues in particular.

Despite the fact that this alliance possesses air superiority and military technology as well as the chance to launch the first strike, the outcome of the first round proved totally adverse to the allied coalition's expectations from such aggressions. The failure in this round focused the light on the U.S. administration which proved itself incapable of assuming the world's leadership. The first opportunity given Washington to assume this new role as world leader, a role based on the concept of peace and security, has been lost because the U.S. resorted to arrogance and inflexibility in dealing with world events. The United States could have won, and proved its stand before the war had it opted to negotiations with Iraq and opened the way for Arab countries' efforts especially those of Jordan to find a solution for the problem.

Iraq, for its part, had expressed readiness to be flexible with regard to its terms and conditions for ending the Gulf crisis. Had Iraq been given the chance to act, the international legality would have been corroborated and world peace and security enhanced. Moreover, that would have proved America's ability to become the world's new leader. America and the world should remember that it was the Arabs who had accepted the international legitimacy represented in the U.N. Security Council resolutions on the partition of Palestine and Resolution 242 of 1967 on ways to end the Israeli occupation of

Palestine. The U.S. administration should realise also that pre-war conditions would never be feasible or acceptable after the war.

How can the Iraqis accept the idea of abandoning Kuwait if the blood of their men and women drench Kuwait's sands? Did the U.S. administration take this point into consideration? How should it act after that? On the other hand, the Arab-Iraqi axis comprises the Arab people of Iraq and the Iraqi armed forces, together confronting the aggression. The Iraqis have survived the first strike and thus achieved their political victory by proving to the world that Iraq had not started the war. The Iraqis have so far proved to the world that they stood fast in the face of the American and Western military arsenals. Iraq has proved to the world that it constitutes a formidable military power on equal level with the West, and proved that it is capable of utilising military technology and building up its self strength and intrinsic power without Western assistance. Iraq also succeeded in dealing hard blows to the allied forces and to Israel despite the huge American military assistance to the Jewish state. This war has manifested the qualitative improvement in the quality of the Arab force with new indicators on the nature of the future Arab-Israeli conflicts which in turn bear significant political and historical impacts that would speed up a solution for the Middle East problem. The longer Iraq can endure and stand fast, the more the battle will be in its favour.

The Americans believe that they must devastate Iraq's air defences and its missile systems before embarking on the ground battles in which Iraq clearly has superiority. The Americans believe they must first destroy Iraq's capability to launch missiles which can devastate oil and military installations in Saudi Arabia as well as Israel. In order to do that, the United States could resort to asking help from Israel which possesses vast experience in the geographical, social and political nature of the region. Indeed, reports had said that Israeli experts are present with the U.S.-led forces now operating in the Gulf.

While awaiting the second round, or the ground battle, let us contemplate the prospects for peace efforts. Is there a chance for peace to be achieved and help the concerned parties reach some sort of a settlement, or is the U.S.-led coalition still insisting on destroying Iraq's military machine regardless of the magnitude of losses? I believe that the U.S.-led coalition has not yet realised the

real mess it has got itself into. I believe that any ceasefire before the ground battle means a political defeat for the U.S. president with adverse consequences on the whole U.S. administration, and the U.S. Republican Party. Furthermore, any delay of the ground battle until March is not feasible due to the rising heat of the desert, which is indeed not in favour of the American and allied forces. The only open option for the Americans is to escalate the current air raids. What is horrible in this war is the expected strikes on civilian targets which the Americans might resort to, in order to cover up for their failure in achieving speeding military victory over Iraq. What is more horrible is the use of non-conventional weapons should the allied forces find themselves losing the ground battle. In such case they would be destroying the oil installations which they claim they had come to protect.

Winning the war does not necessarily mean winning peace. Honourable peace can be achieved through the efforts of those willing to offer sacrifice and to defend their homeland. Achieving genuine peace requires full support for Iraq by all available means on the part of Arab and Muslim countries. Egypt and Syria should offer their clear and absolute support for Iraq militarily and politically and form a united front. Peace also requires a reactivation of world public opinion which should be encouraged to oppose war and call for peace. This can be achieved through concerted pan-Arab information campaigns like those being waged at present in Jordan.

Arab and Islamic countries ought to exercise pressure on Turkey, the Islamic country which allowed the United States to use its bases to attack Iraq, to reconsider its position. Turkey should be reminded of the long-standing Arab-Turkish strong and friendly relations. Should the pressure succeed on Turkey, the Western coalition aligned against Iraq would face frustration. The Arabs should also back Iraq's ongoing efforts to stop the war. Indeed any change in Iran's present stand in favour of Iraq, would bring change in the whole situation, paving the way for an Arab victory.

Dr. Saleh Rusheidat, an engineer by profession, is a political activist and a member of Jordan Arab National Democratic Party (JANDA). He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Reluctant French defence minister resigns over Gulf war

PARIS (R) — Jean-Pierre Chevenement, who resigned as defence minister on Tuesday, was from the start reluctant to engage France in the Gulf war.

A fiery critic of "American imperialism" in his youth and a founder of the France-Iraq Friendship Association, Chevenement had been in his job for more than two years when the crisis broke out over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Long before war erupted, he openly opposed the U.S.-led

military buildup and President Francois Mitterrand's decision to send some 10,000 troops to Saudi Arabia.

"Everyone knows the decision (to go to war) belongs to President George Bush... why yield to U.S. pressure?" one of his friends in the ruling Socialist Party (PS) asked just before the U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait expired.

Their leftist loyalties severely strained, the socialists were among the few who joined com-

munist to vote in parliament against France's military involvement.

Visibly torn, facing a storm of criticism from politicians and press commentators, Chevenement remained in his job, travelling to Saudi Arabia to visit French troops on the front-line.

The controversy over his role resurfaced shortly after the war broke out when Chevenement said French warplanes would fly war missions only over Kuwait.

Worried by criticism among allied forces that France was waging a part-time war, Mitterrand called in journalists to make clear the planes would bomb Iraq. They did.

Chevenement, 51, indicated in his resignation letter he believed the U.N. had not authorised the massive bombardment of Iraq to drive it out of Kuwait.

"The logic of war risks driving us further every day from objectives fixed by U.N. resolutions," he said.

LETTERS

Jordan's economic future

Now, after the eruption of the Gulf war and after all efforts to avert it have gone with the wind, and while we are now on the boundaries of a new era as well as a new future, we must start to think seriously of how this future would mean to us and to the shape of our economy and how could it be shaped.

It is worth saying that we have been so ambitious in the past and wanted to achieve many ambitious goals; thus we planned for that and consequently faced the heavy burden of foreign debt. Now, we must have a pause to face ourselves frankly, to review our methods and to redefine our goals and possibilities away from emotional feelings and far reaching aspirations. This will require us to answer many questions. For instance, do we want to be really an industrialised country, and if so do we have the means to achieve that, or do we want to excel in agriculture and how?

It could be a good idea to think in a system by which Jordan tries to achieve self-sufficiency in agriculture and light industry with an excess capacity to export when possible. Meanwhile Jordan which enjoys a stable and democratic political system that better suits the work atmosphere under which business thrives, the country will be better off by specialising in services trying to make a service centre for the area. As reconstruction will take place after the war, Jordan is qualified to play an active and vital role to accelerate that by providing its highly reputed skilled labour and intellectuals as well as making a middle station for businessmen in the region. Tourism can have again good prospects and we will have to make use of them. Services here can mean repair, installations, storage, transport and other related facilities together with providing products of light industry, agriculture and the like. These elements are believed to be factors of excellence inherent in our economy and could be isolated from many of the exogenous variables that might effect other economies.

Dr. Maher A. Waked,
Amman.

Thoughts to share

To the Editor:

Here are a few thoughts that I would like to share with your readers on some of the latest events on the war in the Gulf.

When Iraq announced last week that it would hold U.S. and other allied prisoners of war (mainly pilots) at military and strategic sites, the Americans and members of their military coalition protested, saying that such an act was inhuman and violated the Geneva conventions on protecting POWs.

What they probably did not know, or rather totally ignored, is the fact that the airmen would be safer there than in civilian and population centres, which the allies have been bombing at random. If proof is required, witness how one of the POWs was killed in an allied bombing raid on the Iraqi Ministry of Trade the other day. So much for George Bush's words, in his State of the Union address, that his country was not after Iraq, its people and culture.

The American alliance has so far claimed more than 28,000 sorties over Iraq. In Monday alone, the U.S. military spokesman in the Gulf announced, 2,000 air raids were carried out against Iraqi targets. Out of the 2,000 sorties, and judging by civilian casualties resulting from the aerial bombardment, at least 1,500

must have been directed at civilian targets. Alternatively, the allies might have been using Smart bombs against the Iraqi population and Dumb bombs on military targets. When U.S. Patriots failed to go off in interception of an incoming Iraqi Scud against Israel on Jan. 28, everybody wondered what had happened. Pending a logical explanation by Israel or the Americans soldiers manning the Patriot operation, we will have to assume that it may have been a Stealth Scud that the Iraqis had fired against the Israelis.

Ali Hassan,
Amman.

Manners please

WATCHING His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan give interviews to various TV network since Aug. 2, and especially after the war erupted on Jan. 17, one is very proud and fascinated by the wisdom, honesty and exemplary manners of the Crown Prince in dealing with interviewers despite some provocative questions at times.

In one recent interview with British TV journalist David Frost, the interviewer went overboard in putting his questions and was so provocative that it became obvious, he was hoping the Crown Prince would respond in kind. Prince Hassan, however, calmly refuted all of Frost's allegations and answered his questions objectively and convincingly.

May I point out to foreign reporters, that doing their job does not require them to sound rude in playing the devil's advocate nor warrants interrogating interviewees in order to elicit honest answers.

Musa N. Bayley,
P.O. Box 4752,
Amman.

Different Statistics

To the Editor:

Those desiring peace in the Middle East will be encouraged to know that the numbers of anti-Gulf war protesters taking part in worldwide demonstrations last Saturday (Jan. 26) were grossly under-reported in most Western press. International peace activists with whom we are in contact report up to 300,000 marchers in Bonn; 250,000 in Washington, D.C.; 150,000 in San Francisco. In much less populated Canada, at least 10,000 people marched against the war in Vancouver; another 10,000 or more in Toronto.

Your readers might also be interested in some of the placards carried last weekend in the San Francisco Bay area by those calling for peace. Some of the signs read:

18 males to the gallon
Read my apocalypses
Kick Butt, then what?
And another sentiment to which we agree:
Everybody out of everywhere

Carl Chaplin and I appreciate very much the dignity, respect and hospitality of the Jordanian and Palestinian people. We are doing our utmost to convey your message of peace to our Canadian sisters and brothers back home.

Randy Thomas
Canadian Peace Mission
Amman.

Reading between the lines of superpowers

By Tom Raum
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House brushed it off, insisting the U.S.-Soviet statement on the Gulf wasn't even worth mentioning in President George Bush's State of the Union address. But between the lines, one might read a fresh effort to find Middle East peace.

Assuming that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is willing to give up Kuwait.

And assuming that no one, neither in Washington or Tel Aviv will make a fuss over "linkage."

In the statement, the United States and the Soviet Union spelled out conditions for a possible cease-fire in the 2-week-old war. They declared one would be possible if Iraq made "an unequivocal commitment" to remove all its forces from Kuwait and took "concrete steps" in that direction.

At the most, the diplomatic statement opened the door — just a crack — towards a new peace overture. At the least, it was a useful recitation of U.S. policy in the effort to keep Moscow satisfied with the Gulf war. Many were puzzling over the U.S.-Soviet statement from Secretary of State James A. Baker and Foreign Minister Alexander A. Bessmertnykh even as Bush was winning congressional applause for his Gulf policy.

In the past, Bush had insisted there would be "no pause" in the war. And U.S. policy had always insisted upon a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. But the president made no mention in his nearly hour-long State of the Union address of any possible new compromise, in which he declared: "we will prevail."

U.S. policy also had always argued against linking the Gulf conflict with the Palestinian issue. Yet, Tuesday's Baker-Bessmertnykh statement made a point of stressing that the Arab-Israeli dispute had been a source of conflict in the Middle East.

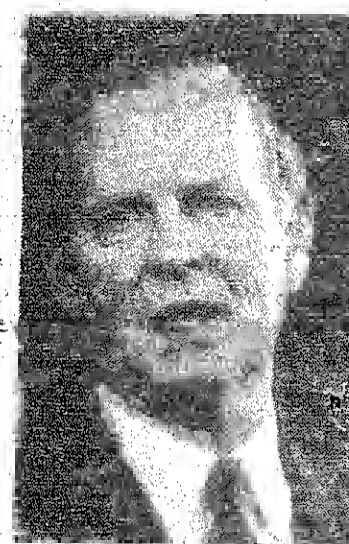
And, the statement continued, it would be "especially important" to try to resolve this older dispute after the current conflict is ended. White House officials insisted that the statement, taken in its entirety, did not represent any change in U.S. thinking — either on the issue of Iraq or on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush, therefore, did not see any reason to mention it in his address.

"The president of the United States says our policy is not changed," Fitzwater said. Asked why the statement was issued, he said, "it's always good to restate our policy."

Fitzwater said he had spoken to Bush about the statement and "the president says there's no change in our policy at all."

However, administration's seldom admit that policies have changed, even when they do



James Baker

slightly. And diplomatic nuances often leave a lot open to interpretation.

And, while Bush before the war had suggested that he might be sympathetic to a commitment by Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait, together with the beginning of a major withdrawal, making the same point once a war is under way with the prospect of heavy casualties puts a different cast on it.

Even so, a senior administration official, briefing reporters at the White House on the condition of anonymity, was asked if an Iraqi pledge to withdraw would be enough. "They have to leave Kuwait," he said. Asked if that meant entirely, he said, "yes, of course."

The vagueness of the new statement appears to baffle something in it for everyone.

For the Soviets, it goes part-way towards addressing reservations about the war raised by Bessmertnykh over the weekend. He said there was "cause for concern" that Iraq was facing "very grave damage" from U.S. air attacks.

Now he can return to Moscow with what appears to be a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

For Iraq, the statement might offer a slight hint of U.S. flexibility on the conditions of withdrawal. Furthermore, it also links the Iraqi conflict with the Israeli-Arab conflict for once on the same document, one signed by the world's two superpowers.

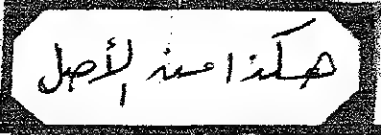
But for the United States, the statement can be interpreted by officials to mean nothing new.

The statement read: "A cessation of hostilities would be possible if Iraq would make an unequivocal commitment to withdrawal from Kuwait."

It added the two governments "also believe that such a commitment must be backed by immediate, concrete steps leading to full compliance with the (U.N.) Security Council resolutions."

But doesn't "commitment" to withdrawal mean something entirely different than total withdrawal?

"We've always said that if he wants to leave, he should start leaving," Fitzwater said. "Start leaving?" he was asked.



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No Arab-American internees, urges Hollywood star

By Michael Miller

LOS ANGELES — George Takei, known to millions of television viewers as Mr. Sulu on Star Trek, can identify with Arab-Americans as the Gulf war unfolds.

The Japanese-American actor knows what it is like to be vilified and scorned because of a faraway war.

At the start of World War II, when he was two years old, Takei and his family were sent to an internment camp for Japanese-Americans and bled along with tens of thousands of others until after the war ended in 1945.

Later, growing up in Los Angeles, even his teachers called him "that Jap kid."

Takei said in an interview with Reuters that he prays history will not repeat itself.

"For this country to intern Iraqi-Americans because of what is happening in the Gulf, a conflict that is none of their making, would be an outrage," he said.

Remembering when Chinese-Americans were issued with badges to say they were not Japanese, Takei said he thought all Arab-Americans faced problems because it is almost impossible to tell an Iraqi-American from any other Arab-American.

"You are automatically suspect because of your features, your ethnicity," he said.

About three million Americans were either born as citizens of Arab countries, or are of Arab descent. Tens of thousands of them trace their origins to Iraq.

Last week, Arab American groups complained that FBI agents brought in to investigate anti-Arab hate crimes in fact interrogated over 200 Arab Americans about their political beliefs and whether they supported Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The U.S. government says it has no plans to intern either nationals of Arab states or American citizens of Arab descent. The FBI has said it will check up on 3,000 Iraqi nationals whose residence visas have expired.

Still, Takei expressed concern.

"My father was questioned in the same way, except in those days they used the word 'sabotage' instead of 'terrorism.' Then came internment."

"Our soldiers are fighting for American ideals, and if we should abrogate those ideals here at home, that would be one of the most shameful and disrespectful things we could do to those soldiers," he said.

The innocent must not be caught up in a frenzy of retribution, Takei said.

"We have a system of due process... suspects should be questioned and charged if there appears to be a case against them, and tried, and if found guilty, they should be

punished.

"But just because they are Arab-Americans, to descend on them and question them and to make them suspect can suddenly make their neighbors feel, well, there's something wrong with the Hassans or the Habibs," Takei said.

"I think that would be an outrage."

He said the four years he spent in an internment camp outside Los Angeles did not affect him immediately. But as he grew up he began to feel "that there was something shameful about my background, something that I should feel somewhat guilty about."

Takei's response to that shame was to overcompen-

sate at school, where he became student president. He has since become a prominent Japanese-American in Hollywood.

By the time the U.S. government acknowledged its mistake in 1988, with an official apology and \$20,000 compensation for each internee, Takei's parents were already dead.

"It was my father who suffered the pains, the pangs, the most," Takei said. "He passed away in 1979, so he did not get that apology."

"The pain and anguish suffered by my parents can't be quantified in \$20,000. That was a token, symbolic redress for the anguish that my parents went through."

Amazon park helps freed animals return to the wild

By Peter Muello

The Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil — A crack-down on the lucrative illegal trade in jungle animals from the Amazon has created a new problem: What to do with those rescued. Noah's Park may be the solution.

Returning directly to the rain forest is difficult for animals accustomed to cages. Many starve or are killed by predators.

Noah's Park, an experimental "halfway house" in the western Amazon, helps animals re-adapt to the wild.

It also fosters the breeding of animals threatened by the destruction of the rain forest.

Ranchers and farmers have razed about one-tenth of the 3 million square miles (5 million square kilometers) of Amazon wilderness.

"This is a completely new concept for dealing with a lot of species at once," said Dr. Marc Van Roosmalen, a Dutch primatologist in charge of the project.

Noah's Park takes in nearly all animals native to the Amazon. Jaguars and Pumas are excluded because they might prey on the others.

Since it opened in February 1990, Noah's Park has received more than 200 monkeys, macaws, parrots, toucans, capybaras, coatis, tapirs, peccaries, sloths, boas, turtles, and even a rare giant otter.

Most are seized at street markets by federal agents of the Brazilian Environment Institute. Others are taken from tourists who buy animals as mementos — boa constrictors are a favorite — often without knowing it is illegal to

hunt, keep or sell wildlife in Brazil.

They are delivered to Van Roosmalen, who treats the sick ones and observes all the animals for up to six weeks, until he feels they are ready for the park.

"Normally, they're traumatized, very afraid of people and guns," he said in an interview. "The first problem we have is to give them back confidence."

A caged animal across a rutted road marks the entrance to Noah's Park, a 70,000-acre (30,000-hectare) expanse of rain forest on the outskirts of Manaus, 3,000 miles (5,000 kilometers) northwest of Rio de Janeiro.

In a clearing, brilliant scarlet macaws screech a greeting. A purple-feathered trumpeter wanders up, its coo sounding unnervingly like a video arcade game.

"Look, there's a hyacinth macaw," said Rejane Neves, who quit his job as a bank manager to join the project. "It would fetch \$4,000 in the United States or Europe."

Wildlife experts estimate fewer than 5,000 hyacinth macaws remain on the planet. Neves said the species is not native to the Amazon, but to the pantanal wetlands of western Brazil. Park officials freed this one, he said, only when they were sure it would not leave the area.

At midday, park worker Cosmo da Silva dumped a pile of cut-up oranges, bananas and pineapples onto a log platform in the forest. The branches of trees 130 feet (40 metres) high began to thrash and sway as a gallery of monkeys dropped in for lunch.

Among more than 100

monkeys in the park are capuchins, saimons and marmosets. They live in generally peaceful proximity that would be unthinkable in the wild.

They are totally at ease with humans. They hop onto the shoulders of visitors, nuzzle their ears, crawl inside shirts. Monkeys are master pickpockets, and any loose object is fair game.

A young squirrel monkey jumped onto the platform holding a roll of film. A photographer grabbed for his camera bag, too late. Da Silva coaxed the monkey over and snatched the film back, to screams of protest from the thief.

Nearby, a male woolly monkey carried a baby squirrel monkey on its back. The older monkey had adopted the motherless infant, one of many at the park.

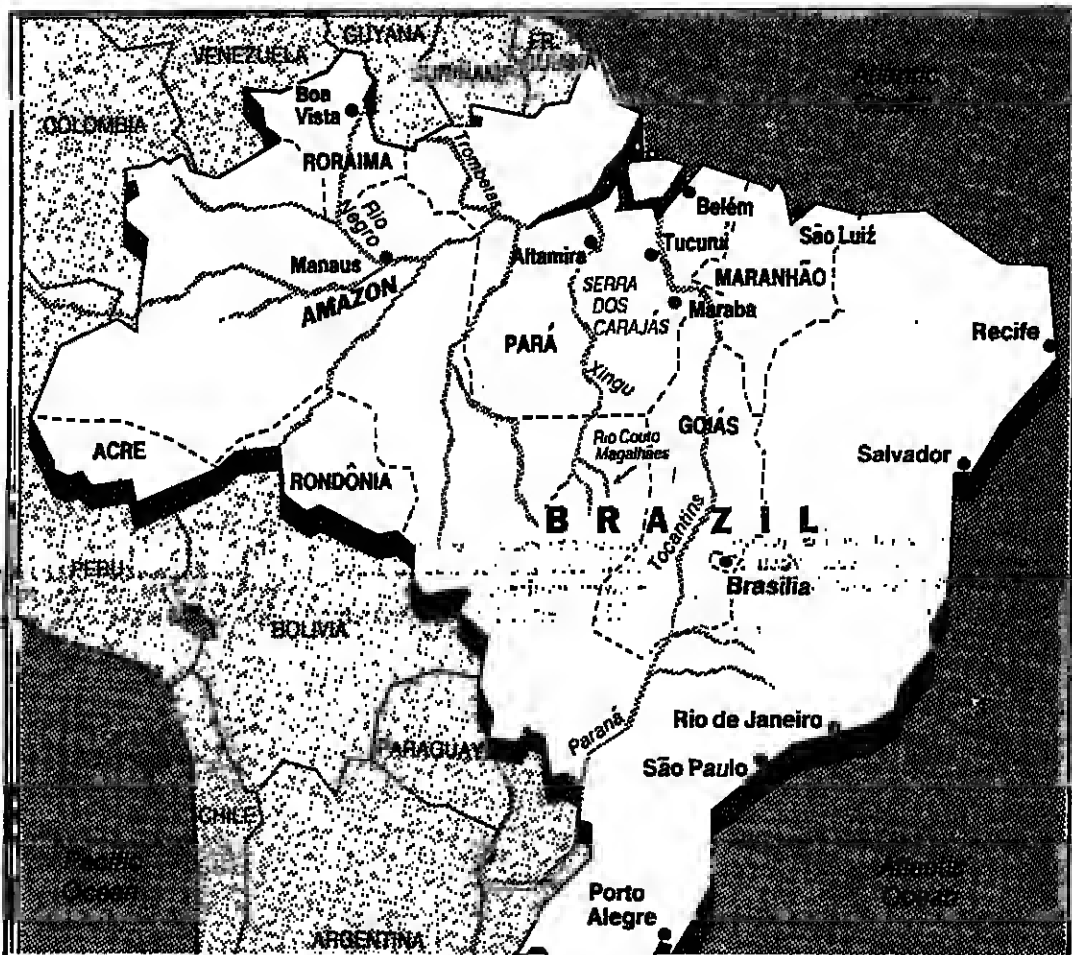
"Almost the only way to get a monkey is to shoot the mother and take the baby," Van Roosmalen said. "Most of our monkeys here are babies."

A wild monkey learns survival techniques on his mother's back, including what flowers and fruits to eat, the primatologist explained. Orphans must learn from groups of other monkeys.

"The Manaus forest is very low-productive," Van Roosmalen said. "A group of monkeys needs 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres), and spider monkeys need 2,000 hectares. They can only survive if they know the forest well."

Peccaries, a jaguarundi and the rare giant otter, called otte, live in separate enclosed areas.

Visitors enter otte's double-doored, covered pen



cautiously, aware that giant otters have been known to attack and kill humans. The seal-sized otter barks and lunges aggressively at fish tossed from a pail, but Da Silva insists there's no danger.

"He's been alone too long and needs a female," he said. Otte cannot return to the wild because he never learned how to fish and now is too old to do so. If freed, he probably would go after a farmer's chickens and be shot or captured.

Some monkeys have been crazed by torture or too much time alone in cages. "Imagine what would happen if a human child were kept that way," Van Roosmalen said. "Monkeys are no different. We're all primates."

He wants to put those animals on a separate river island. "We can give them a nice life," Can Roosmalen said, "but they'll never be normal

again." Another goal of the park is to breed endangered animals, especially monkeys.

"All large monkeys are endangered, not because of hunting but because of habitat loss," said Van Roosmalen, who has studied primates in the rain forests of neighboring Surinam and French Guiana. "If they breed well, we can reintroduce them in their native habitat."

The park was started by the Vitoria Amazonica Foundation, a non-profit society licensed by the Brazilian Environment Institute. Among its supporters is Conservation International of Washington, which provided a \$25,000 grant.

Silvio Barros, president of the foundation, wants to use the park to educate Brazilians and foreigners about the rain forest. He envisions a tourist attraction with elevated walkways, a museum, arboretum,

snake house and amphitheatre.

"You can't love what you don't know," Barros said in an interview. "We think ecotourism is the best way to make foreigners pay for the preservation of the Amazon."

Van Roosmalen prefers to keep the park devoted to scientific research and has protested the foundation's plans. "They want to make a Disneyland out of the park," he said. "I want it completely natural."

He and the government said a plan was being approved for him to create a new foundation to run the park and invite U.S. primatologist Tom Desler, who works in Colombia, to join the project.

"The (Amazonica) Foundation underestimated what we're doing," he said. "Now I will be able to do what is scientifically correct."

Want to lose weight? Running may beat swimming

By Ira Dreyfuss

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Running may be better than swimming at making you look good in a bathing suit. Studies indicate that swimmers retain more fat than do runners.

Both aerobic activities burn calories, so you can lose weight no matter which you choose, provided you work out enough and watch what you eat. The question is which would be more efficient.

"The swimmers lost less body fat than the runners," said Randall L. Smith, an assistant professor of physical therapy at the University of Missouri, Columbia, who compared both activities.

Smith recruited 31 sedentary but healthy men and women in the Columbia area, ages 21 to 50, who could run and swim. He split them into runners, runners who dieted, swimmers, and swimmers who dieted.

All exercisers worked out 30-60 minutes, five days a week for 10 weeks, and kept

detailed diaries of what they ate and drank. The overall goal was to have everyone lose 500 calories a week, either by exercise alone, or by splitting the loss equally between diet and exercise.

To make sure runners and swimmers worked with the same intensity so Smith could compare the activities as equals, he monitored the amount of Venous Lactate, a chemical waste product of exercise in their blood.

Smith found that non-dieting swimmers lost signifi-

cantly less fat than did their running counterparts. The swimmers had slipped from an average of over 29 per cent to almost 27 per cent, while the runners had dropped from over 28 per cent to a little over 25 per cent.

The diet-and-exercise groups also lost body fat, but the difference between them was not statistically significant, Smith reported.

When he looked for an explanation, the researcher saw a difference in the what they ate.

"We've noticed that people

who swim are a lot hungrier than runners after workouts," he said. "In fact, runners don't have much of an appetite after finishing their workouts."

The run-only group lost an average of 366 calories, while the swim-only group lost a mere 81.

Even the exercise-and-diet groups couldn't stick to the plan to cut 250 calories, he said. The run-and-diet exercisers ate 462 calories less per week, while the swim-and-diet exercisers ate 317 calories less.

Smith isn't sure why that is, but he suspects that the swimmers' bodies were trying to conserve fat stored in their bodies, and instead were burning carbohydrates.

Exactly why swimmers would retain more fat than runners is a mystery. But Peter Daland, the head men's swimming coach at the University of Southern California, speculates that the body might be trying to use the insulating effect of fat to offset the body's ability to cool faster in water than in air.

The woman who didn't want war

By E. Yaghi

WHILE some sentiments in Jordan and throughout the Arab World secretly or openly wished for a war in the Gulf to avenge Israeli atrocities forever perpetrated, one particular woman who lives here didn't. Fatimeh is an elderly Palestinian refugee who dreaded any sort of conflict in the Gulf. In spite of the fact that she has suffered a great deal in her life, she still has compassion and empathy for all living creatures. When she saw President Bush sending young American soldiers to the Gulf, she could only say, "such a shame," as she shook her head. "They are boys too and they fear death like anybody else. They have been sent against their will. If they die, their parents will be very hurt, for they also have spent their lives raising their sons."

Before 1948, Fatimeh was a beautiful young mother with eight children. She had married a dark handsome Palestinian farmer who owned vast groves of orange and lemon trees. Perhaps it was his famous sharp hazel eyes that let her consent to marry him. Possibly it was his reputation for courage, but whatever the reason, she became his dutiful wife, helping him farm, tending the children, baked delicious bread and cared for the livestock. They had a perfect life filled with sunshine, starlit nights and happiness. Their days were framed with joy and laughter.

Then, their peace was shattered by the Jewish terrorist massacres of unarmed Palestinians. Fatimeh was gripped with fear. Her husband was famous for his cunning, horsemanship and bravery, but she didn't care to compete with his courage. They received word the Jews were coming. As she fretted one day about the Jewish threat, Fatimeh looked at her young children and then approached her husband. "I'm leaving with the kids. If you choose, you can come too. If you want to stay, I won't stop you, but I'm not staying here. You heard about the massacre at Deir Yassin. The Jewish invaders killed 254 unarmed Palestinians, many of whom were pregnant women and children!"

She saw surprise flood his face. In his marriage, his word was law and she never defied him, but this time, she was insistent and nothing would change her mind. Early one morning, she gathered her children, just like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wing, and put her young and some basic possessions in a wagon. She climbed aboard ready to guide the horse. Suddenly, her agile husband jumped in the seat beside her, picked up the reins, swallowing his pride and said, "You don't think I'd let you and the kids leave without me, do you?"

She knew he couldn't look back. She saw the tears in his eyes and felt the lump forming in his throat. He was leaving the land of his father, his grandfather and his forefathers. Would they ever see their land again?

With hope in her heart, Fatimeh and her family set out on a perilous journey. During their flight, they spent many nights sleeping outside with the black sky as their blanket and many days without protection in the baking sun. Finally, in desperation, they decided to go to the refugee camp at Jericho. There in the sprawling tent city of a lost people, she watched the spirits of her family sink as low as sea level. They waited in despair and desolation to return to their orchards, their home and their land of plenty. When no one was looking, Fatimeh's tears silently poured down her face. Daily she saw the lump in her husband's throat grow bigger as he said, "what is a man without a home and a country?" Refugee is the hardest burden to bear. How will we feed our children, Fatimeh? We never should have left our home ever if the Jews killed us!

Stubbornly she shook her head in disapproval. "No, you are wrong. We couldn't have watched them slay our children before our eyes. Our children are more precious than all the orchards, land and money in the world. We must be patient. God will provide for us."

So, they learned the meaning of the word patience and they waited and waited to return to their beloved land. Their children began to grow up as refugees, a youth without a country. Fatimeh and her husband struggled to secure a piece of bread for them to eat. Later, she and her family immigrated to the city of the seven mountains. It was here in Amman, that they found a haven of peace and contentment in a unique and ancient capital.

The young and beautiful Fatimeh grew older with her husband. They had lost their orchards, their country, their luxurious way of life. They settled for a few grape vines and some fruit trees on a mountain in Amman where Fatimeh's old husband would sit out in the leafy shade and roll tobacco leaves for cigarettes, his head bent in prayer and gratitude for whatever small property he now had. Palestine stayed a loving memory in Fatimeh's heart and mind and many nights were spent in the midst of husband and children, recalling the rich life they once had, as her eyes would cloud with tears and sadness would grip her heart. Her sons grew up to become successful professionals, some doctors and another a manager of an international company. Fatimeh remained a devoted woman who dedicated her entire life to those she loved.

Her husband, her dearest companion in life, died away from his cherished trees, away from the smell of orange and lemon blossoms, away from the assortment of beautiful birds that used to inhabit their land. He never saw his country again. He died as a refugee. Now, Fatimeh faces a similar fate of death outside her homeland. She is a dignified old woman. Her glossy black eyes shine like dark marbles from a pleasant and gently wrinkled face. Her heart is clean and pure. She hates no one and wishes peace and love to rule the world instead of war and violence.

She is surrounded by the devotion of her children and grandchildren. She is a grand woman wrapped in wisdom. But she is deeply sorrowed by the Gulf war. She cries for the Iraqi people and feels their pain and she hopes and prays the Gulf war will cease. Although she is a Palestinian refugee who lost her country and an entire way of life, she doesn't want to see any more destruction against the Arabs, not even to free her own homeland and people.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

It is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it
— Anonymous.

We have 40 million reasons for failure, but not a single excuse
— Rudyard Kipling, English Writer (1865-1936).

When prosperity comes, do not use all of it
— Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 B.C.-479 B.C.).

I enjoy convalescence. It is the part that makes the illness worth while
— George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born playwright (1856-1950).

Life as a journalist

By Maha Addasi

"To be a successful journalist you must learn to use all your senses," a professor of journalism droned on. "You should be able to smell a good story; see it, hear it, feel it, and then taste the glory of success by publishing it."

But this is easier said than done. A journalist cannot dive for a story and get all the information he or she needs, then get it printed without overcoming a "few" obstacles. If you aspire to become a journalist, here are the hurdles you must clear before getting your story printed.

First you must know if the information passed to you is credible? and if the source is informed. For example, a person once called the newspaper saying that he has some classified information about art that is not for publishing. "We just thought that you budding journalists would be interested to hear about it."

Journalists cannot resist the temptation of writing a front page item. So why bother getting information they can't use. Besides, "classified" and "art" just don't go together, unless something like the Mona Lisa has been "misplaced." So that was the end of that story. No one went to get the information. In fact, I took down the person's name so that I would avoid interviewing him in future.

You must also take into consideration how people react to the press. Usually it goes something like this: "Oh my God it's a journalist. Quick, hide!"

This does make the job any easier, but journalists persevere until finally they are promised an interview. And during the interview they hear comments like, "you journalists are all alike, you make mountains out of molehills and you do it so well that you can get a nice, steady income out of what you write." If the source does not want to be interviewed he or she is said to be "in a meeting" every time you call.

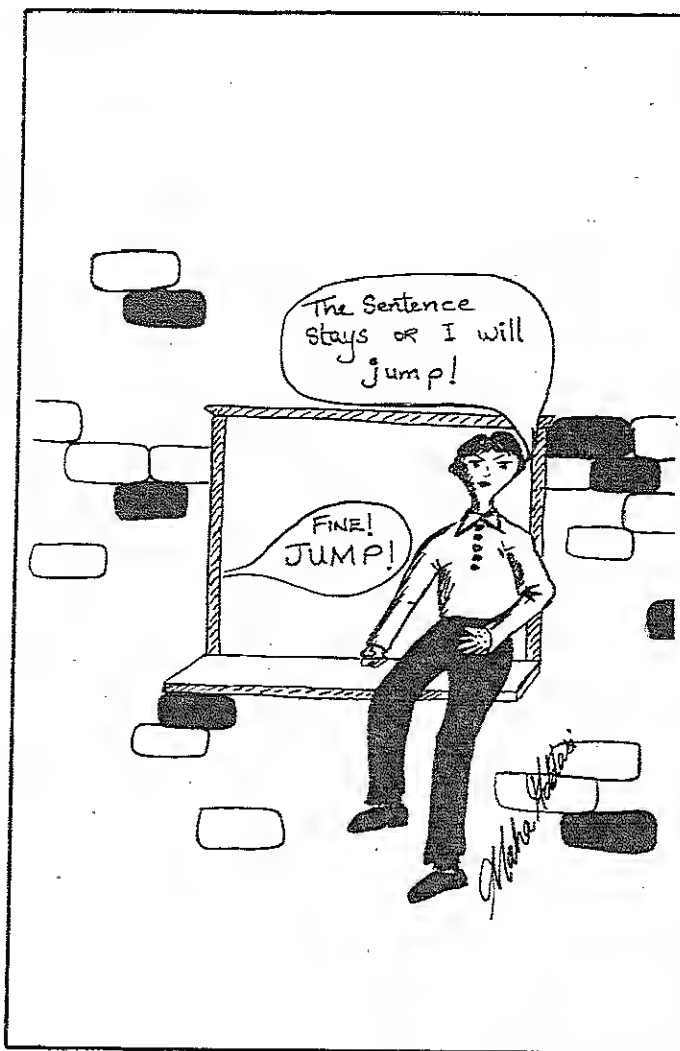
But a good journalist is not offended by such words, because he or she has long since developed a thick, protective hide that makes him or her resistant to such attitudes.

Then there are some people who seem very welcoming, and bombard you with information so that they get the exposure thus giving you all the information you need to write your article. After it is printed, and just before you sit down for breakfast to bask in the glory of having an article printed on page one you get a dreaded phone call. People interviewed claiming that they didn't quite say what you wrote. My personal favourite is this: "I may have said this ... but this is not what I meant."

One thing journalists do not do is read peoples' minds. No, ladies and gentlemen, journalists do not yet have telepathic powers.

Sometimes you get lucky and everyone seems happy. You know they're happy because no one is complaining. If the piece is good no one as much as mumbles anything. But when they don't like what you wrote they let you know. Yes sir, when it comes to flack, or criticism, everyone and his uncle becomes an expert on what you wrote and they want to nip your ideas in the bud.

At times the obstacle is the editor. Let me write this as



carefully as I can. Each person is his or her own worst critic, but the editor is a very close second. Since you have written and rewritten your articles, you know that this is how you want it printed. A journalist could fight to death to have the words he or she has penned printed as is.

Let me illustrate. An editor could as much as dangle a journalist out of the window to persuade him or her that a sentence should be omitted and the journalist would still argue that "maybe if I rephrase the sentence...."

There are many more obstacles, stories that are like wild goose chases. Or you can get all the information you need and then there is a sudden twist in events which means your info goes out of the window.

Then there are people who say things "off the record" only to find what they said is the headline in the morning paper and sue you. You know the saying, "loose lips sink ships." It is true. Loose lips can also sink newspapers.

So if you're ready for these ups and downs ... join the club.

Gulf war hits West End but Phantom still sells out

By Matt Wolf

The Associated Press
LONDON — London's West End theatre district is feeling the effects of recession, sagging tourism and the Gulf war.

In a sure sign of a slump, tickets for hits such as Miss Saigon and Les Miserables may even be available on the day of the show.

"Last week, everything took a dive," Peter Motchman, finance director of the ticket agency Edwards and Edwards, told the Associated Press. "Cancellations are coming in very, very quickly."

Andrew Leigh, general manager for both Into The Woods and J.B. Priestley's play Time And The Conways, starring Joan Plowright, said business fell by half in the week after fighting in the Gulf

began on Jan. 16.

Attendance at the Stephen Sondheim musical Into The Woods last week sank to 50 per cent.

"If we could play to just Saturday nights," sighed Leigh, referring to the busiest night of the week.

Other London shows hit by falling attendance include the three musicals Buddy, The Rocky Horror Show and Return To The Forbidden Planet.

The worst-affected shows seem to be those that depend on impulsive, last-minute "door trade."

"It's fair to say (the pressure) for tickets is less than it was," said Nick Allott, executive producer of Cameron Mackintosh Ltd. The company's current shows include Miss Saigon, Cats, The Phantom Of The Opera and Les

Miserables.

Last week, Allott said, Miss Saigon was £5,000 (\$9,750) short of its weekly gross at capacity of £290,000 (\$565,500). Les Miserables had "a few holes in the matinee," while The Phantom Of The Opera sold out as usual, he said.

"I wouldn't exaggerate the impact of the Gulf thing," said Roger Filer, managing director of Stoll Moss Theatres.

"January to February is always the worst trading period of the year," said Filer, calling the present dip "a little worse than the normal situation."

Filer estimated that attendance in his theatres is off 4 per cent from a year ago, but shows are running in 11 of the 12 Stoll Moss Theatres.

Tourists, who make up as

much as 30 per cent of the summer audience, traditionally account for a small percentage at this time of year. There are even fewer this year.

Sarah Dale, the director of a group called the British Incoming Tour Operators Association, estimated that hotel occupancy rates in London have fallen 30 to 40 per cent. Americans and other visitors have been shunning destinations in Europe and the Middle East because of the Gulf war and Iraq's threat of attacks.

Britain's economic recession is another factor in the decline of spending for entertainment.

"Industry is experiencing the worst economic conditions for a decade," said the Financial Times, Britain's leading business daily.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Saturday, Feb. 2

1535 — Argentine city of Buenos Aires is founded.

1635 — New Amsterdam (now New York City) is incorporated by the Dutch.

1797 — Mantua, Italy, surrenders to the French.

1808 — French force occupies Rome after Pope Pius VII refuses to recognise Kingdom of Naples and join alliance against Britain.

1872 — Holland sells trading posts on African gold coast to Britain.

1878 — Greece declares war on Turkey.

1905 — Insurrection breaks out in Welle district of Belgian Congo.

1919 — Monarchy is proclaimed in Portugal.

1924 — Caliphate is abolished by Turkey's National Assembly.

1953 — United States announces that it no longer will block Chinese nationalist raids against China mainland.

1974 — Communists outside Phnom Penh bombard Cambodian capital, and officials say 17 people are killed.

1975 — Ethiopia's military government orders bombers, armoured units and troops into operations against guerrillas in Eritrea province.

1977 — West German government approves delivery of \$625 million worth of submarines, tanks and guided missiles to Indonesia and Turkey.

1988 — Human rights group says it has documented "systematic campaign" of kidnapping, torture and murder of civilians by Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

1989 — South Africa's President P.W. Botha, recovering from stroke, resigns as leader of National Party but indicates he will stay on as head of state.

1990 — South African F.W.

De Klerk lifts ban on African National Congress (ANC).

Sunday, Feb. 3

1591 — Formation of the German Protestant League of Torgau under Christian I of Saxony, John Casimir of the Palatinate, and Christian of Anhalt.

1660 — General George Monck leads his army into London.

1830 — Greece is declared independent under protection of France, Russia and Britain at London conference.

1831 — Revolutionary outbreaks in Modena, Parma and Papal states, influenced by French revolution.

1848 — Britain's Sir Harry Smith annexes country between Orange and Vaal rivers in South Africa.

1894 — The Dirigo, first steel sailing ship, is launched at Bath, Maine, in United States.

1913 — Bulgarians resume war with Turkey.

1943 — British bombers pound German city of Hamburg in World War II.

1945 — U.S. forces recapture Manila in Philippines from Japanese in World War II.

1964 — China challenges leadership of Soviet Union in Communist World.

1966 — Unmanned Soviet spaceship makes soft landing on moon and begins sending signals back to Earth.

1969 — Dr. Eduardo Mondlane, president of Mozambique National Liberation Front, is assassinated by time bomb in Tanzania.

1973 — Fighting in Vietnam comes to virtual halt after formal ceasefire goes into effect.

1977 — General Tafari Banti, Ethiopia's chief of state, is killed in gun battle that breaks

out around Addis Ababa headquarters of nation's feuding military leaders.

1984 — Infertile woman in California (U.S.A.) hospital becomes what is believed to be world's first person to give birth to baby from donated embryo.

1989 — A top military commander seizes power in coup following night of fighting in Paraguay.

1990 — Soviet news report says Gorbachev will ask Central Committee to sanction multiparty political system.

Monday, Feb. 4

1536 — France's King Francis I conquers Savoy and occupies Turin, also signs French alliance with Turkey's Sultan, Suleiman I.

1585 — France's King Henry III refuses sovereignty of the Netherlands.

1783 — Hostilities end between United States and England.

1874 — British forces under Garnet Wolseley burn Kumasi, Ghana, ending Ashanti war.

1899 — Filipinos stage revolt against United States because independence is not granted.

1922 — Japan agrees to restore Shantung to China.

1938 — Germany's Adolf Hitler assumes office of war minister and names Joachim Von Ribbentrop as foreign minister.

1948 — Ceylon becomes self-governing dominion in British Commonwealth.

1961 — Terrorist attacks break out in Portuguese African territory of Angola.

1969 — China's charge d'affaires in Netherlands, Liao Ho-Shu, arrives in United

States and requests political asylum.

1972 — Britain and nine other nations recognise East Pakistan as independent nation of Bangladesh.

1986 — Group of hardline Arab leaders, meeting in Libya, threatens anti-American attacks "within the United States and throughout the world."

Tuesday, Feb. 5

1885 — Congo state is established under Belgium's King Leopold II as personal possession.

1917 — Mexico becomes a federated republic of 28 states.

1945 — U.S. troops under General Douglas MacArthur enter Manila Philippines, in World War II.

1958 — North Korea proposes withdrawal of all foreign troops from North and South Korea.

1962 — France's President Charles De Gaulle calls for independence for Algeria on basis of friendly cooperation with France.

1971 — U.S. Apollo 14 astronauts land on moon.

1976 — Earthquake in Guatemala takes almost 23,000 lives.

1988 — About 200 Arab protesters raise outlawed Palestinian flag and hurl rocks at Israeli riot police in Jerusalem.

1989 — Algeria's president proposes new national constitution, dropping references to socialism and opening door to a multi-party system.

1990 — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, addressing the party plenum, says the Communist Party must abandon its monopoly on power.

By the Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

MUSIC ROLL
By William Canine

ACROSS
1 Scotch
5 Big ocean fish
9 States for
13 Certain scores
17 Corcoran patriot
18 Control
19 Exile
20 Furry fellow
21 Jolson specialty
22 Health
23 Link
24 Play plank
25 Sculptor Jacob
26 Silas and film
27 Vicious
28 Don Cornell hit
29 "Fair"
30 — Alamo
31 Paddle
32 Evelyn or George of old times

DOWN
1 Malacca
2 Horse specialty
3 Vibrant
4 Rent apart
5 Hockey great
6 Kings
7 Present
8 Auction business
9 Dylan specialty
10 King — Saud
11 Sapien
12 Pen style
13 Fr. friends
14 Castor bean
15 Mole
16 Worthless stuff
17 Kitt specialty
18 Bar legally
19 North Sea feeder

Diagramless 17x17. By Craig Schultz

ACROSS
1 Farm implement
5 Sport
9 Spirit
11 Throw
15 An Alida
16 Obliterated
17 Al city
18 Nodman
19 System
20 Stretch out
22 Bullfight cheer
23 Omelet item

DOWN
1 Chatter
2 Whip
3 Butterine
4 Married
5 Party
6 Omelet a bit
7 Horse
8 Terminate
9 Office note
10 Russ. city
11 Charlie Brown's spin?

39 US org.
40 Big bird
41 Withstand
42 Transgression
43 Newstand
44 Transfer design
45 Kate or Jaclyn
46 Bigwig
47 Goggles
48 Cronus e.g.
49 Shapless
50 Fish
51 Disprove
52 Small change
53 Joke
54 Vicious
55 Composer
56 Pram pushed
57 Dream signal
58 Sp. hero
59 Address Burke
60 NFL men
61 Plastic product

26 Communists
27 Disparagingly
28 Licks
29 Scullion peak
30 On — "in"
31 Kings
32 Handgun
33 Love affair
34 Howard of
35 "Alice"
36 Toast dressing
37 Kelly specialty
38 Plant
39 Crosby
40 Cole specialty
41 Unmist
42 Unmist
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48 Unmist
49 Unmist
50 Unmist
51 Unmist
52 Unmist
53 Unmist
54 Unmist
55 Unmist
56 Unmist

25 Scrooge word
26 Waterproof
27 Boots
28 Solicits
29 Customers
30 Edge
31 Bumped into
32 CO ski resort
33 Musical wand
34 Trouble
35 In one end, out the other

12 Lubricant
13 Unkempt
14 Musical piece
15 Casper's place
16 Precious stone
17 Sorcery acts
18 In a violent
19 Applied crudely
20 Movement
21 Kind of struggle
22 Sea birds
23 Cozy

74 Soviet premier
75 Moslem sect
76 member
77 In proportion
78 Pit
79 Goggles
80 Cronus e.g.
81 Shapless
82 Fish
83 Disprove
84 Small change
85 Joke
86 Vicious
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88 Pram pushed
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91 Address Burke
92 NFL men
93 Plastic product

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61 Harder to find
62 "Alice"
63 Toast dressing
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41 Oct. activity
42 Impulsus
43 Spigot
44 Old Gr. coins
45 Shun
46 Protude
47 Hooter
48 Feather
49 SA river
50 Firearm
51 Money player
52 Strife

33 — d'tre
34 Indian warrior
35 Negative word
36 Durocher
37 Capture
38 Indian prince
39 Peak
40 Applied crudely
41 Paving material
42 Imaginary belt in the heavens
43 Musical sound

106 Balletsters of
107 Ancient Afr.
108 Deposed
109 One who rents
110 Opposite of
111 Presley specialty
112 Friendship
113 "Came home, home to —"
114 (Rund)
115 (Rund)
116 Air raid siren
117 Slant negative
118 Case
119 Certain
120 Not one

89 The movies
90 Bruce
91 Sheer fabric
92 Deposed
93 Pack of foxes
94 Undiluted
95 Slavery
96 Dance
97 Wind; pref.
98 (Rund)
99 Island; pref.
100 Grad. degs.
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It is a mostly Mozart year in Austria

By George Jahn

The Associated Press
VIENNA, Austria — Mozart shows, Mozart operas, Mozart chocolates, Mozart books, Mozart competitions, Mozart videos, Mozart posters, Mozart liqueur — it's mostly Mozart in Austria this year.

Two centuries after his death, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart has returned this year to dominate Vienna and other cities of his native Austria. That is, his likeness is everywhere, from the portraits in museums to the images on state television and the potpourri of Mozartart souvenirs being hawked by vendors on the streets in hopes of cashing in on the bicentennial.

For some it's too much "Mozartmania."

Mozart died on Dec. 5, 1791, at 35, although no one knows exactly where he was laid to rest.

But that doesn't matter for the hundreds of millions of Mozart fans who consider his music immortal.

Americans surveyed in 1987 picked him as Austria's second best-known son, right behind film star Arnold Schwarzenegger. Third was Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian president with the controversial wartime past.

The Salzburg Advertising Agency Stars and Concepts asserts that today, Mozart worldwide ranks in popularity with pop star Michael Jackson and tennis ace Boris Becker.

And this year, all Austria will be his stage posthumously.

Austrian TV plans to broadcast 99 hours of Mozart's music; the Salzburg Festival is set to stage seven of his operas, while ensembles in Vienna will produce eight, including two in three different versions.

In and around Salzburg alone, Mozart commemorations work out to three events a day this year. Austrian Information Offices abroad are touting the anniversary, and the commercial sector also is jumping on the bandwagon.

Publishing and recording houses are flooding the market with works by and about Mozart. Lauda Air hopes to increase business between Austria and Australia by sponsoring a mostly Mozart festival at the Sydney Opera House.

The manufacturers of "Mozartkugel" told Profil magazine that the Mozart year would translate into so many extra sales that the foil-wrapped chocolate balls laid end to end would stretch from Salzburg to Ankara, Turkey.

Some take offence at such Mozart marketing. They say image makers are doing little better than the Nazi prop-

agandists who misused the Mozart legend to reinforce a stereotype of Austria as a carefree land of music.

The 150th anniversary of Mozart's death was in 1941, after Austria became part of the German Reich. In a ringing anniversary speech, Nazi functionary Baldur von Schirach proclaimed that "whoever pulls the sword for Germany also pulls it for him."

"In those days, he was considered the symbol of German genius," said author Karl Moller, who is working on a book critical of what he considers Mozart's debasement. "Now he is being exploited for economic and cultural-political purposes."

The centrepiece of the Mozart "madness" is a vast exhibition in Vienna, meant to chronicle the last 10 years of the composer's life with historic objects ranging from original manuscripts to a portable toilet of the kind used by Mozart while travelling.

Visitors entering the ornate, Kuenstlerhaus Housung "Zaubertone — Mozart in Wien" (magic sounds — Mozart in Vienna) move along narrow corridors depicting the different stages of the composer's life in the capital.

At 80 million schillings — nearly \$8 million — the spectacle ranks the most expensive of its kind ever staged in Vienna, and organisers hope to recoup more than 25 per cent from entry fees during its year-long run before it closes on Dec. 5.

But initial figures have been disappointing. Projected over the year, the 21,525 visitors who came by Jan. 6 would amount to 200,000 people and a maximum 14 million schillings instead of the hoped-for 500,000 people and 26.5 million schillings.

Insistent snippets of Mozart's music — piped in through the low ceiling — accompany the visitor through scores of displays in the meandering exhibit, the music frequently overlapping in an un-Mozart-like cacophony.

"There's too much in there," visual artist Karl Grausgruber, 40, complained after a two-hour visit. "And I don't have the feeling that I know more about Mozart than I did before."

The respected Die Presse newspaper wrote: "Vienna's Mozart exhibition for the anniversary year was a thorough flop."

Other critics were no kinder. "No major exhibition in the Kuenstlerhaus has ever been so narrow, so confined," wrote the mass-circulation Kurier. "No major topic has ever been treated so didactically... no exhibition that is also dedicated to music has ever been shaped so unmusically."

An Anglo-American team begets Children of Eden

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — Stephen Schwartz and John Caird have been involved in some of Broadway's biggest hits, but they were adamant about putting their new show, *Children of Eden*, on in London.

"I have to do with working style," Schwartz, 42, said of the £2-million (\$3.86 million) musical, which opened on Jan. 8 at the Prince Edward Theatre, the first major London opening of 1991.

"It's a much more pleasant and focused working experience," the composer-lyricist said of London's commercial West End. "There's much less of the power and ego games I've experienced in New York, that frenzy of threats and tears and firings."

The greater quantity of theatre in London than on Broadway means there is less hysteria attached to each individual show. Also, the price is right. *Children of Eden* on Broadway would cost double its West End

budget, Schwartz said.

Schwartz has had three New York hits — *Godspell*, *The Magic Show*, and *Pippin* — alongside flops like *Working* and, most recently, the 1986 *Rags*.

Children of Eden uses the book of *Genesis* to tell a cautionary tale about the world today.

It's the first collaboration of Schwartz, a New Yorker now residing in Connecticut, and Caird, the English co-director of *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Les Miserables*.

The 35-person cast is headed by Ken Page, the American star of *Cats* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*, as God. Kevin Colson, a Tony nominee in June for *Aspects of Love*, as Noah; and Frances Ruffelle, a Tony-winner for *Les Miserables*, as Yonah.

Caird and Schwartz have been polishing *Children of Eden* for three years following a 1985 workshop of a separate version of it, entitled *The Family Tree*, which

did not involve Caird.

The London staging was first planned for the Royal Shakespeare Company, where *Les Miserables* began in 1984. It shifted to the commercial West End when the Royal Shakespeare Company decided to close its two London theatres for the winter in order to save money.

Caird said his new project had the initial appeal of *Les Miserables*, which has gone on to become the most internationally successful musical ever.

"I fell hopelessly in love with Stephen's songs on first hearing, just like I did with the score of *Les Mis*," Caird said in an interview.

The first act recounts the creation and the fall of man. The second act, said Caird, "is an imaginative version of life in the late 20th century where the *Children of Eden* — man and animals — are no longer living in harmony."

"Each is being cannibalised by the other," he said.

Schwartz acknowledged "*Children of Eden*" is a risky

venture, partly because no surefire names are attached to it.

"We don't have Julia McKenzie's name on there; we don't have Andrew Lloyd Webber's name on there," he said. McKenzie is the acclaimed current star of *Stephen Sondheim's Into the Woods* in London. Lloyd Webber has four long-running musicals on the West End.

"I'm very, very exposed in this show," he noted.

While musicals often postpone opening nights to allow their creators to hone the show further, *Children of Eden*, unusually moved its premiere forward from Jan. 16 to Jan. 8.

"Frankly, it was a financial decision," explained Schwartz. "It's difficult to sell the previews without the notices, and until those notices are out, people are not going to buy tickets."

If the show clicks in London, Schwartz said he would then take it to Broadway.



Shion Abdullah (Abel) and Adrian Beaumont (Cain) in *Children of Eden*

James Joyce, once undesirable, now lionised in Switzerland

By Mitya New
Reuters

ZURICH — Fifty years after his death Switzerland has started to make amends to James Joyce.

When France fell to the Nazis in 1940 the Dublin-born writer, then living in Paris, took his wife and son back to Zurich where he had sought refuge in World War I.

But the Swiss authorities tried to stop him from entering the country on the grounds that he would compete with local writers.

Now the country where Joyce died on Jan. 13, is finally recognising him.

Zurich has donated an honorary plot for his grave, a restaurant has a "Joyce" table, a Dublin Pub where Joyce drank has been recon-

structed here, a house where he lived has put up plaques and a foundation has compiled Europe's largest collection of Joyceana.

"We want to make Joyce an active, living thing for people and not a dry subject," says Fritz Senn, renowned Joyce researcher and head of the Zurich James Joyce foundation, which organises weekly readings from the writer's works.

In a small museum on the second floor of a 16th century building in the centre of Zurich, the foundation has put together a Joyce library of several thousand volumes, including translations, of his works into more than 30 languages.

Senn has also collected every conceivable kind of Joyce memorabilia, which, if not

part of the author's life itself, figure in his novels.

On the shelves, nestling among the books, are beer mats and towels, boxes of lemon soap, two Joyce walking sticks and a 19th century copy of *Tit Bits*, a gossip magazine.

"I bought the lemon soap in the very same shop in Dublin that Mr. Bloom, in the novel *Ulysses*, bought his," said Senn. "And the magazine is a copy of the magazine that Bloom reads on the toilet."

Although Joyce now enjoys more recognition in Switzerland than when he was alive, Senn feels still more could be done.

"There's nobody in the university here you can talk to about Joyce — it's a pity because it would be easier for

them to put together a collection like this," Senn said.

Although Joyce lived in Zurich only as a part of refuge or when seeking help from doctors for chronic eye complaints, the city influenced his work.

Elements of the Swiss-German dialect spoken in Zurich are evident in the increasingly original and abstract language that Joyce developed towards the end of his life. It reached its culmination in his final work *Finnegans Wake*, which cannot be read without a specialist Joyce dictionary.

"For me Joyce is important for showing us what it is possible to do with language, with words," Senn said. "He has something to say about communication among people."

But Joyceans in Switzerland, just as Joyceans elsewhere in the world, have not escaped the factional divisions of the bitter "letters" controversy.

A case of unpublished Joyce letters and papers, which was deposited with the National Library in Dublin on the understanding it would not be opened until 50 years after Joyce's death, became available on Jan. 13.

Initially the correspondence is open only to the library's curators but is expected to be publicly available later this year.

The letters were entrusted to the Irish government's representative in Paris by a friend after Joyce fled to Switzerland with his family. Ireland was neutral during World War II. But Joyce re-

mained a British subject throughout his life.

The case may contain more of the love letters between Joyce and his wife Nora. Some of this correspondence, which has already been published, is highly erotic, even obscene.

Joyceans are divided over whether the letters, if intimate, should be published.

Said Senn: "I climb onto the barricades when it comes to censorship and so I think the letters should be published. The more anyone resists that, the more attention is drawn to the issue."

But when contacted by Reuters, Joyce's sole surviving grandson, Stephen Joyce, who opposed publication of the earlier letters, would say only that he intended to safeguard family interests.

Vietnam theatre under pressure from videos, subsidy cuts

By Kathleen Callo
Reuters

HANOI — Modern theatre groups in Vietnam discovered a daring new critical voice and growing audiences when the Communist government began to loosen its grip on public expression five years ago.

Now they are struggling to survive cuts in state subsidies and fierce competition from imported videos.

Pham Thi Thanh, technical director of Hanoi's Youth Theatre, says audiences have shrunk by half since 1988 with more and more people crowding round video screens in simple sidewalk cafes.

Many of Vietnam's 165 theatre, music and dance ensembles used to receive 100 per cent state funding.

"All the theatre groups are having a more difficult time now," Thanh said in an interview.

Actors in the Youth Theatre, whose state funding has been cut by 40 per cent, sound like performers in New York or London as they describe how they hold down two or three extra jobs to get by.

The tougher climate means trying harder to attract audiences.

One hit play, *My Life*, seems to have the right formula — combining sex, violence, melodrama and playful but tough criticism of corrupt state officials and hypocritical Communist Party activists.

It was performed 170 times last year to mostly packed theatres.

The heroine is a nice girl whose boyfriend dumps her because his parents say she lacks revolutionary credentials.

Her father leaves her mother because he can't support the family and the mother has to take a lover to pay the bills. The lover then arranges for his boss, a corrupt head of a state company, to seduce the girl. She later turns to prostitution, kills her mother's lover and is condemned to death.

Thanh says the play has steadily drawn crowds, from street vendors to intellectuals, because of its simple message.

"Before 1985 everyone thought that in a Socialist society there were no prostitutes. But there were a lot,

and people thought there were leaders. But now we're telling the truth," she said.

Going to the theatre in Hanoi is an unusual experience. People who pay about 2,000 dong (25 cents) for a ticket sit in the audience smoking, crunching on sunflower seeds and from time to time roaring with laughter.

Young actors say new political freedom has allowed them to perform Western works such as "Love Story" and "Romeo and Juliet" that would have been taboo before.

The Youth Theatre's pantomime group, the first of its kind in Vietnam, combines Western-style pantomime with modern dance, and even offers the odd breakdance routine.

"The most difficult thing now is that we'd like to have a relationship with theatre groups in other countries, in France, England, America... but we don't have any colleagues there," says Pham Tho Hoa, the head of the group.

He and the eight pantomime artists sat recently over lunch discussing how to raise money to get to a theatre festival in Australia. The \$2,000 air fare is a huge sum in Vietnam, where annual per capita income is \$200.

Top actors can hope to earn \$300 to \$600 a year.

Hoa knows about juggling jobs. Aside from heading the group, he edits a magazine, and works as a printer and a tailor. One of the pantomime artists has a clothing shop,

another repairs motorbikes, a third runs a pharmacy.

Director Thanh says modern theatre has lost some of its appeal as people get used to greater freedom of expression.

"The problem is that the newness is fading. In 1985, after a long period of being silenced, everyone was speaking out and was interested in the theatre. But now everything is open... it's not new any more," she said.

But she said trying to lure audiences back from the latest craze, videos, would help the theatre in the long run.

"Everyone needs competition. Now there is greater pressure on the director to make each play better."

Winds of freedom blow for Cuban jazz trumpeter

By Charles J. Gans
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's only 150 kilometres from Cuba to Florida, but it's taken Cuban jazz trumpeter Arturo Sandoval thousands of miles — and many years — to make that short trip between two different worlds.

Considered Cuba's foremost jazz artist, Sandoval defected while on tour in Italy with Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations Orchestra. He turned up at the U.S. embassy in Rome last July 22 with a small suitcase and trumpet, requesting political asylum.

At the same time, his wife, Mariela, and 14-year-old son, Arturo Jr., who had been allowed to join him in Europe, sought asylum at the American embassy in London. Within days, they were settled in Miami, with its large

Cuban population.

"I didn't want my son to grow up there with all the problems," Sandoval said. "The principle thing is to feel free... that's no. 1."

"One of my dreams in life has been to come here to the United States — the land of jazz, the music that I love."

As a jazz artist, Sandoval suffered for playing America's indigenous music in a country whose Communist government is staunchly anti-Yankee. While performing his compulsory military service almost 20 years ago, he was imprisoned for four months after he was caught listening to a U.S. jazz broadcast.

"They said I was a jazz lover which meant that I was pro-

American," Sandoval said, in a telephone interview from his home in Miami.

"I felt that I was losing my life, my time and my talent, because there were so few opportunities to play," he said.

Since coming to the United States, the 41-year-old Sandoval is furiously making up for lost time.

He has formed his own sextet with Cuban-American musicians in Miami, and is currently touring Europe again with Dizzy's multinational big band. He recorded a trumpet solo for Dave Grusin's soundtrack for Havana, the soon-to-be released film about 1950s Cuba starring Robert Redford.

In March, he plans to perform a Haydn trumpet concerto with the London Festival Orchestra. He also has appeared with the BBC Symphony in London and the Leningrad Symphony.

But what distinguished him is his Latin-style jazz trumpet, blending blazing Afro-Cuban and salsa rhythms with bebop influences, spiced with ear-bursting high-note playing.

On a recent Monday night in New York, Sandoval's cheeks puffed out and turned bright red as he hit stratospheric notes in guest appearances with two fellow Cuban expatriates, veteran Conga player Mongo Santamaria and saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera

at the Village Gate.

Standing backstage enjoying the proceedings was Gillespie, 73, who befriended Sandoval during a visit to Cuba in the 1970s and later introduced him to American audiences.

"He's one of the real phenomena of these times... He's unbelievable; it's a pleasure to work with the guy," Gillespie said of his younger protégé.

"He's the definitive Cuban trumpeter of the 1990s. He has that real Cuban soul... and he has the knowledge of the work of all the major trumpet players of the last 40 or 50 years."

Gillespie is widely credited with pioneering the marriage

of jazz and Afro-Cuban music when he recruited the legendary Cuban Conga player Chano Pozo to play in his Bebop big band in 1947.

Sandoval was born in 1949 in the town of Artemisa, about 50 kilometres outside Havana. His father was a car mechanic, his mother a housewife. At the age of 12, he began playing trumpet in his town's marching brass band, often performing at political rallies in the early days of the Cuban revolution.

His life changed when he heard a 1947 Bebop recording featuring Dizzy and saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker.

"It was around 1964," Sandoval recalled. "I got crazy

when I heard that. ... I said it's impossible to play like that. That Bebop music infected me in my brain."

"Dizzy will be my hero forever. I admire him as a genius musician and a great person... To play with him and have the chance of being his friend is the most important thing that has happened in my life."

But it wasn't easy for Sandoval to pursue his passion for jazz. There was no jazz on the radio, and the U.S. trade embargo and travel restrictions made records hard to come by.

He and a small circle of friends shared the treasured jazz recordings brought back by the occasional traveller to

the West, and he managed to be influenced by Louis Armstrong, Clifford Brown, Woody Shaw, Miles Davis and other American jazz trumpeters.

Sandoval studied classical trumpet at the National School of Art in Havana, and in the late 1960s began performing with the Cuban Orchestra of Modern Music, using it as a cover to play some jazz.

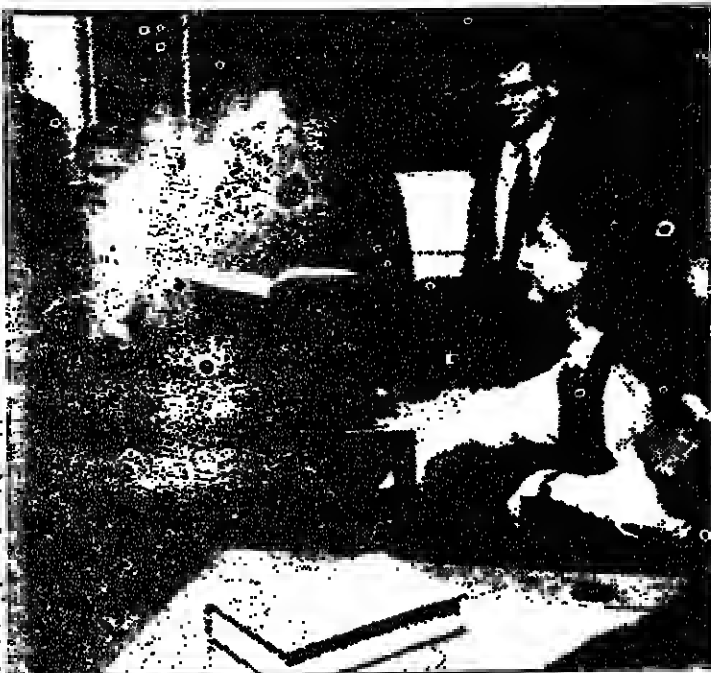
In 1973, after completing his army service, he joined D'Rivera and other young musicians in founding Irakere, a seminal band which modernised the link between jazz and Cuban music, using electronic instruments along with traditional Cuban drums. The Grammy-winning band became one of Cuba's most popular musical exports, winning acclaim in Europe and the United States.

Robin Williams in serious mood over new movie

By Michael Miller

LOS ANGELES — It's a rare moment. Robin Williams isn't being funny. He's

being deadly serious. The U.S. actor and comedian is talking about his latest film and how it affected him. There's no room for his



Williams in Dead Poets Society

trademark wisecracks and off-the-cuff humor. "When I first read the script, I was on a plane and I started crying. I cried a couple of times, in fact. It goes in waves," he says.

The film is *Awakenings*, based on a true story about the work of a British neurologist, Dr. Oliver Sacks, in a New York mental hospital.

Williams, star of the films *Good Morning Vietnam* and *Dead Poets Society*, plays the role of Sacks, whose name has been changed to Malcolm Sayer for the movie.

In the 1960s, Sacks discovered a group of patients who had been confined to the hospital for up to 40 years, unable to move or communicate. They were survivors of a sleeping sickness epidemic that swept many parts of the world in the 1920s.

The doctor treated his patients with the drug L-Dopa, then being used to combat Parkinson's disease. They recovered, at least temporarily, from their "living dead"

stage. "In some ways the film starts out as a mystery with Oliver basically figuring out what's going on (with the patients)."

"Then (there's) the realization that, Oh my God, they are real. Oh my God, they're conscious, they're really awake, not brain dead as assumed by the diagnosis," explains Williams.

The film, in which Robert De Niro stars as a patient, was shot largely in a working mental hospital in New York City's borough of Brooklyn, and director Penny Marshall used real patients as extras.

The subject matter, and working with Sacks and his patients, made a greater impression on Williams than any other movie he has appeared in.

"You can't walk away from Oliver, or Lillian, or any of those people and ignore it. It leaves an incredible impression."

Lillian is the only survivor of the more than 30 patients

whom Sacks originally treated. She is not portrayed in the movie but Sacks introduced her to Williams, Marshall and De Niro so they could get a first hand impression of such a patient.

"She was truly an amazing woman," said Williams. "She was happy and laughing when we first met her. She also had a mental condition that caused her to repeat everything she said."

"She'd say 'I'm OK, I'm OK,' and, 'take care of Oliver, take care of Oliver.' She was more concerned for this marvelous man than she was for herself."

Williams was also exposed to the dramatic and crippling effects of Lillian's disease. "She has a walker. She was starting to walk across the room and (a nurse) said 'the medication's starting to wear off' and she just froze."

"They took her off to her bed, because the system just shuts down. The drug bridges the gap, basically," Williams said.

Making the film, he added, was both depressing and joyful.

"The hospital... was that way because, with the patients, there are moments when they're laughing and the next moment you realize the desperation, the loneliness, of these people."

"And there are other times when you see moments of incredible humanity. "As soon as you walked in the (hospital) door every morning... there'd be this one little guy looking through the portal."

"Show'm I doing? Do I look nuts to you?" mimics Williams, "and that's the beginning of the day."

Williams' performance in *Awakenings* is restrained — no hint of the comic to be found. He credits this to the man he portrays.

"Oliver is a wonderfully restrained man. He is probably the gentlest, largest man you'll ever meet... like a combination of (scientist Dr. Albert) Schweitzer and (he-



Robin Williams in Good Morning Vietnam

man actor Arnold) Schwarzenegger."

Making the movie had its moments of drama, Williams recalled, such as the time he accidentally broke De Niro's nose.

"It was a simple stunt. I was supposed to restrain his arms... and my elbow hit him and I heard his nose crack."

"His plastic surgeon told me afterwards (De Niro) should send me money because I corrected his nose. It made it very wasp-like."

Asked about the possibility of being nominated for an Academy Award — insiders here tip *Awakenings* as a winner — Williams flinched. "I've sat there and lost twice, man. It's rough."

Sally Field's latest film could inflame hatred

By Ronald Clarke

LOS ANGELES — Actress Sally Field fears her new film, *Not Without My Daughter*, could inflame hatred toward Arabs and Iranians.

"I think there is a danger of that, certainly right now," she said, referring to the Gulf war. "People who want to be inflamed by it will be inflamed by it."

The film, now playing in the United States, is based on the true story of an American woman who fled Iran with her six-year-old daughter after her Iranian husband beat her and refused to let their daughter leave.

A day after the film opened in Los Angeles, a cinema showing it had to be evacuated because of a telephoned bomb threat. No bomb was found.

"If you are going to tell this story," Field said, "and it is a valid story to tell, how are you going to not say the things happened that happened?"

"This is a story worth telling. It did happen."

The woman's husband, Sayyed Mahmood, played by British actor Alfred Molina, had lived in the United States for 25 years, a loving father and husband, before he decided to visit his family in Iran in the 1980s. Once there, he decided to re-embrace Islam.

In the most controversial parts of the film, Betty Mahmood, portrayed by Field, is brutally beaten by her husband.

Finally, after she has plotted her escape for 18 months, Mahmood and her daughter, played by six-year-old Sheila Rosenthal, are spirited across the Iranian border into Turkey by sympathetic Iranians.

Asked if she felt her life was in danger because of the film, Field slipped off her shoes in the Los Angeles hotel room, sat on her feet and thought deeply.

Molina has appeared in *Raiders Of The Lost Ark* and acted with the Royal Shakespeare Company in *Bri-*

"I don't think so. We do not say anything blasphemous about the Islamic religion and, in fact, we are always very respectful toward (it). I think this is important."

"The film is about extremists in Iran at that time and their attitude toward women and Westerners," Field said.

"But, if there are any heroes, they are Iranians who risked their lives to get the mother and daughter out of the country."

Molina, a quietly-spoken Londoner, said he did not believe the film, which was directed by fellow-Briton Brian Gilbert, had any bearing on the Gulf situation.

"I was very nervous — but it was about working with Sally," he said. "I had always been a fan of hers and I was afraid of falling on my face. But she wears her star status lightly and put everyone at ease."

Field, who has won two Academy Awards for portraying determined women — a trade union stalwart in *Norma Rae* and a widow trying to save her farm in *Places In The Heart* — said she deliberately did not have any contact with Betty Mahmood before the film was made.

"I think Betty is really very well educated, very sophisticated," Field said. "... I was playing more of a typical American housewife. I wanted to create a character that was a little different."

Mahmood, who wrote a book about her experience, approved of Field's portrayal of her. "Now living in the Midwest, she said her life with her husband was not unique."

"I have had hundreds of people write to me saying 'this was my story (too). This happened to me,'" she said.

Molina has appeared in *Raiders Of The Lost Ark* and acted with the Royal Shakespeare Company in *Bri-*



Sally Field (right) with Danny Glover in Places In The Heart.

New film rekindles debate about wartime France



Gerard Depardieu

By David Crary
The Associated Press

PARIS — A subject almost taboo in French cinema, the hypocrisy and backstabbing that accompanied liberation from the Nazis in 1945, is tackled head-on in Claude Berri's acclaimed new film, *Uranus*.

Enthusiastic reviews since the film's premiere last month

have been supplemented by numerous articles and interviews delving back into one of France's murkiest and most sensitive periods.

"Claude Berri has produced, in the best tradition, a courageous and strong work," wrote *Le Monde*, which reproduced one of the film's posters on the front page of its arts section.

The subject matter is one

which most French filmmakers have preferred to ignore since World War II.

Set in a small Normandy town in the spring of 1945, *Uranus* follows the intertwined activities of a dozen townspeople, from the cafe owner and the schoolteacher to Nazi collaborators and Communists.

The multiple subplots revolve in part around a couple who choose to hide a collaborator in their home. As the story unfolds, viewers are reminded that most people in France responded passively to the Nazi occupation, while tending afterwards to exaggerate the extent of resistance and minimize the scope of collaboration.

Uranus opens at a time when human rights groups are intensifying pressure for prosecution of three Frenchmen for alleged crimes against humanity while collaborating with the Nazis during the war. Famed Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld, among others, says prosecution has been stalled because of reluctance to expose French complicity with the Nazis.

Thus far, none of the high-ranking French political figures with direct roles in deporting and arresting 100,000 people during the war has been brought to justice.

The film is based on a 1948 novel of the same name by Marcel Aymé. Berri kept much of the book's dialogue intact but said he tried to

develop more sympathy for the characters than the author.

In contrast to war criminals and resistance heroes, he said, "the purpose of the film is to show the people we don't talk much about."

"If there are no heroes, there also are no monsters. The little world of *Uranus* is composed of pitiable people for whom I have a certain tenderness," he said in an interview with the newspaper *Le Figaro*.

Berri said he wouldn't have been able to make a film about a genuine war criminal such as Adolf Eichmann or Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie.

The film cost \$16 million, high by French standards. Hoping to ensure box-office success, Berri signed up a star-studded cast, including two of France's best-known actors — Gerard Depardieu and Philippe Noiret.

Critics have lavishly praised both. Depardieu plays a drunken, poetry-loving bistro owner, while Noiret plays a teacher whose wife was killed in a bombing during an adulterous tryst. The schoolteacher is the film's optimist, holding classes in the cafe because a bomb wrecked his school. He dreams of an ideal world on the planet Uranus.

Berri, 56, won international acclaim for his most recent film, the two-part 1986 saga of Jean De Florette and *Manon Of The Spring*. He hopes



Philippe Noiret

Uranus will be equally successful while provoking debate among its French viewers.

He compares the film to *The Sorrow And The Pity*, a documentary about collaboration in wartime France by Marcel Ophüls, and *Lacombe Lucien*, a Louis Malle film about a French youth who helps the Nazis.

"Aside from them, there hasn't been this kind of film

in France," he said. He described his film as a fable about "a cowardly, hypocritical little world."

Although *Uranus* is the first film directed by Berri since 1986, he has been active as a producer. His productions include the 1988 hit film, *The Bear*, by Jean-Jacques Annaud and Valmont, Milos Forman's version of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*.

Novelist emerging from shadows of famous sister

By Jessica Baldwin
The Associated Press

LONDON — After four novels, polite reviews and patry sales, A.S. Byatt has emerged from the shadow of her younger, more prolific sister, novelist Margaret Drabble.

Ms. Byatt's fifth and latest novel *Possession*, won Britain's and Ireland's top literary awards last year and the hefty backlist sold strong for Christmas.

Nonetheless, the 54-year-old mother of four is taking time and fortune in stride. "I'm too old to get awfully changed, yet young enough to enjoy it," Ms. Byatt said in a recent interview.

She has, however, become more wary. When *Possession* began garnering rave reviews, she welcomed journalists into her home. But after a catty comment or two about her housekeeping appeared in print, she now insists on doing interviews by phone.

Some of the £20,000 (\$39,200) from the British Booker Prize and the 25,000 Irish pounds (\$45,000) from the Irish Times-Aer Lingus International Fiction Prize have been spent on a few good suits a London taxi cab account.

The remainder will build a swimming pool at the author's house in southern France and maybe buy shoes and other items.

Possession, in the tradition of John Fowles' French Lieutenant's Woman, intertwines past and present. A modern romance grows as two literary scholars discover, through poetry and fragments of letters, an unknown relationship between two Victorian poets.

In her previous novels, Ms. Byatt worked with material from her own life.

"It was a sort of pleasure not writing realistically about anything I had actually experienced or knew ... the 19th century I had to invent," she said.

Antonia Susan Byatt was born in 1936 into the household of Yorkshire judge, John Drabble. She went to a Quaker school, then to Cambridge where she graduated with honors. She then earned a Master's Degree at Bryn Mawr College in the United States.

"I was very unhappy there," she recalls. "I ... wanted something different and got more of the same. I thought America would be big and modern with chrome on everything, moving at twice the speed. Instead I was

in a Victorian building and a Victorian library with not a man in sight."

Ms. Byatt taught American and English literature — including Victorian poetry — at University College in London until 1983, when she quit to write full-time.

"I had a very Puritanical background and was taught to think very hard about what was valuable in life, and from that background novels aren't very valuable at all. It's difficult to try and put anything first if you have children and until recently I wasn't at all quite sure that I could put it first."

Thirty years ago, she gave the name Antonia to her first daughter, and began calling herself A.S. Byatt.

"When I had my first child I was in a fit of despair. I was 23 and I thought she had better have this good name (Antonia) and carry it on — for I shall never write a book," Ms. Byatt said.

She and her first husband, Ian Byatt, also had a son, who was

killed in an accident at age 11. She and her second husband, investment adviser Peter Duffy, have two daughters.

Ms. Byatt published her first novel in 1964, and three more followed.

She has also written a critical study of William Wordsworth

and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, another on novelist Iris Murdoch, and edited George Eliot's *The Mill On The Floss*.

But it wasn't until her daughters had grown and she had forsaken academia that she wrote *Possession*, with its strong plot line and sexual tension.

"I had a very Puritanical background and was taught to think very hard about what was valuable in life, and from that back-

ground novels aren't very valuable at all," she said.

"It's difficult to try and put anything first if you have children and until recently I wasn't at all quite sure that I could put it first."

The author said her American publishers, Random House, were concerned that *Possession*, at 511 pages and more than 1,700 lines of Victorian poetry, would be too academic for a broad audience.

"People have made too much out of the fact that I'm an academic ... I am an artist not a career academic, but because I talk about things as one knows things, people assume I am trying to impress."

That impulse showed in her fourth novel, *Still Life*, published in 1985, about a playwright who becomes absorbed in his subject, the painter Vincent Van Gogh.

"You couldn't do it without doing the research, so I read the letters, just reading a biography doesn't do it," Ms. Byatt said. She also went to Amsterdam to study his paintings.

Van Gogh appealed to Ms. Byatt because of their mutual passion for light. She suffers from seasonally adjusted depression and must sit in front of a bright ultraviolet light in win-

ter. "He is a paradigm of myself. I am obsessed with the sun and in the south I start going too fast. When I am slightly on the edge of being mad I get terribly speeded up like him. I know what he feels like," she said.

After years of comparisons with her younger sister, Ms. Byatt shrugs off the reports of antagonism between the two.

"We get on fine, we don't see each other much and we don't look for the worst in each other," Ms. Byatt said. She lives in a cozy neighborhood of South London, while her sister settled in Tony Hampstead to the north.

Drabble has published 12 novels, including *The Millstone* and *The Needle's Eye* and her short stories appear in two collections. Her novels deal with personal dilemmas of intelligent heroines and feminism. She also has edited editions of the Oxford companion to English Literature.

While critics have occasionally compared the two sisters, Ms. Byatt said "when there are other writers more interesting to be compared to ... I don't mind being compared to Iris Murdoch. I learned a lot from her and I admire her."

Rockets

(Continued from page 1)

moved to the town of Al Khiam, which is inside the "security zone" set up by Israel in 1985, in the last 24 hours.

Witnesses said heavy rain and fear of Israeli air raids forced guerrillas to move some multi-barrelled rocket launchers which had been aimed at Israel into caves and garages.

Palestinians Wednesday flocked to funerals for two men killed in the camp by shells fired from Israeli gunboats. Eight people were wounded in the bombardment, security sources said.

The shells hit homes and a Palestine Red Crescent medical centre. The Katyushas were fired from positions near Rashidiyah.

A PLO commander said the rockets fired at Israel Tuesday were a symbol of political and military support for Iraq in its war against U.S.-led forces.

"I believe the rocket attacks will continue because no one can stop Palestinians showing solidarity with the Iraqi people," added PLO Colonel Sultan Abu Al Aynain, who heads the Fateh faction in the Rashidiyah refugee camp near the port of Tyre.

But Col. Aynain said that his group had not been told by Mr. Arafat to fire rockets at Israel. "I believe more than one faction took part in the attack," he said. "There will be more such attacks."

In the camp, Palestinians voiced strong support for President Saddam Hussein.

"Saddam is our leader because he is the only one fighting for our rights. Others... are... traitors," said nurse Iqbal Janaa, 28, who was clearing up the medical centre.

"We love Saddam as he will liberate Palestine and allow us to return to our homeland," said eight-year-old Mohammad Qudweh, wearing a photograph of the Iraqi leader round his neck.

Kafji

(Continued from page 1)

set fire to oil refineries in Khafji. It said an Iraqi patrol also stormed a border post on the Saudi-Kuwait border and killed everyone inside.

Eighteen hours after the first of four attacks across the desert sands from Kuwait, Iraqi forces were still holding out in the Saudi border town of Khafji.

A U.S. spokesman later put allied casualties — the first in ground combat — at fewer than 20.

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf said later Wednesday 12 allied troops were killed and two were wounded in the fighting.

The surprise Iraqi push coincided with a 12-hour air-sea battle in the Gulf and more U.S. bombing raids on Baghdad.

British and American fighter-bombers and helicopters reported sinking or setting ablaze at least six Iraqi fast patrol boats armed with Exocet-missiles off the island of Bubiyan.

Allied officers said Iraq's assault was aimed at goading the U.S.-led multi-national force of more than half a million into launching a ground offensive. So far the war has been mainly waged in the air where the allies have established virtual supremacy.

Fighting was still going on after a fourth assault — which U.S. military sources said involved an 80-strong column of Iraqi armour and possibly 4,000 infantrymen — was launched on Wednesday

morning around Khafji.

On the coastal highway five kilometres south of the Kuwait border, Khafji was evacuated in the first days of the war to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

Arab troops from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf state of Qatar moved up to reinforce American marines, who called in air strikes.

The reporters said the allies appeared to have been duped by the Iraqis into believing they wanted to surrender. The tanks rumbled towards Khafji with their gun turrets pointing backwards.

But they swept on and suddenly opened fire.

Iraqi troops still held parts of Khafji at 4 p.m. (1300 GMT) Wednesday but were completely surrounded by U.S. marines and Saudi and Qatari troops, U.S. military sources said.

"They (the Iraqis) have engaged the Saudi forces in combat," said marine Major Craig Huddleston. "And we're going to kill them."

Iraq stressed that its thrust into Saudi Arabia did not signal any territorial ambitions but was meant to punish the allies.

"O people in the kingdom of the Saudis... we do not covet your land," said the military communiqué read on Iraqi radio.

"Our entry into your land is not occupation, but is made necessary by the circumstances of the fight against the armies of atheism and aggression that have turned your land into a base for aggression."

Iraqi military commanders in previous communiqués repeatedly have called the allies cowards conducting a savage air war against Iraq because they are afraid to confront the Iraqis on the ground.

"O Iraqis, O Arabs, O Muslims who believe in justice, your faithful and courageous ground forces have moved to teach the aggressors the lessons they deserve," the command said in a communiqué announcing the ground attack.

"They have launched their lightning land attack... and crushed the armies of atheism as they advanced, routing those who could run away," the command added.

The earlier communiqué carried by the radio also said three more allied aircraft were shot down overnight during 127 bombing raids on Iraq.

Nusseibeh

(Continued from page 1)

came to their home in Abu Dis on the outskirts of Jerusalem at 11:30 p.m. (2130 GMT) Tuesday and took him away.

Sbe said Palestinians had feared "when the war started there would be a crackdown on the moderate leadership. I think it is a blow against the whole peace movement."

She said she would be unable to visit her husband because their village remains under curfew. The couple has three sons, aged 13, 10 and 8.

Dr. Nusseibeh's family has been in Jerusalem for centuries. His father, Anwar, was defence minister of Jordan before Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967.

The family by tradition hold the post of "keeper of the door" of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, one of Christianity's holiest shrines. The post is given to a Muslim family to avoid arguments between Christian sects.

Ephraim Saeb, former head of Israel's West Bank "administration" and a member of the opposition Labour Party, told

Israel Radio: "If there is indeed hard evidence against Nusseibeh, I suspect that within days he will be brought to trial. If not, this means that the intention (of the arrest) was political."

"Israel is trying to get rid of all potential players for a future dialogue. They are trying to execute in advance any potential chance for peace," Mr. Khatib said.

Faisal Al Hussein, another Palestinian nationalist, challenged Israel to try Dr. Nusseibeh if it had evidence. "It will be a big joke within hours," he said.

In a statement sent to the Jordan Times, Bassam Abu Sharif, political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, dismissed the Israeli government's charges against Dr. Nusseibeh as "ridiculous."

"The Israeli government is defying the U.N. and the world community by continuing its policy of violation of Palestinian human rights and breaching gravely the Geneva Convention," the statement said.

"Prof. Nusseibeh's 'crime' is that he calls for the end of Israel's occupation of Palestine and the implementation of Security Council resolution 242," he said. "It is ridiculous to accuse Dr. Nusseibeh of working for PLO because Sari Nusseibeh identifies himself with PLO as all Palestinians do. He is one of the people to support Arafat's peace plan; the two-state solution," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

Oil slick

(Continued from page 1)

The volume of the slick has reached 11 million barrels or 160 million gallons. The previous record for an oil slick was 1.2 million barrels in the Gulf of Mexico in 1979.

Officials said Wednesday they were unable to pinpoint the exact location of the slick, last given on Monday by U.S. military officials as off Ras Al Mushtah, or about 160 kilometres north of the Saudi industrial city of Jubail.

Jubail's desalination plant processes 30 million gallons of drinking water a day.

Salvage experts have estimated the slick would arrive off Jubail Thursday.

A Western diplomatic source said "the Saudis are very keen to tackle it as far north as they can, rather than let it dissipate. We are told the experts are trying to contain it up there."

The salvage executive said the Saudi coastline was teeming with Saudi, American and other experts who were pooling efforts in this side battle to the war.

Executives were doubtful as to how successful the effort could be. They said the weather would play the key role.

Japanese manufacturers of 10 Saudi desalination plants have warned that their facilities were not equipped to process oil-polluted water.

Germany

(Continued from page 1)

vehicles that are designed to detect poison gas, and 50 similar vehicles that once belonged to the East German army.

German army instructors will teach Israeli teams how to operate the vehicles, he said.

Mr. Kohl's government also promised that German shipyards would build two submarines, to be completed in the mid-90s, for the "protection of Israel's coastal waters," said Mr. Vogel.

The deal will have to be approved by German parliamentary committees, Mr. Vogel said.

Israel has been pressing Germany for help in building submarines for its navy.

Iraqi jets

(Continued from page 1)

disclose the figures (of casualties) and are reluctant to say the reality.

"Every day they announce that their planes have carried out several thousand sorties."

"Where have they dropped these bombs?" he asked.

These sorties to the United Nations said Iraqi pilots who have flown their planes to Iran are being treated as prisoners of war.

In an interview on NBC's "Today" show, Dr. Kamal Kharrazi also said a report that Iran was considering selling mobile Scud missile launchers to Iraq was "baseless."

"They can't try (to leave) because the airplanes are seized and the pilots are kept inside Iran. They would be as prisoners of war," Mr. Kharrazi said.

The ambassador said he did not have numbers on how many Iraqi planes had flown into Iran.

Hassan Rohani, spokesman of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Iraq probably wanted to preserve its planes for use in a possible ground offensive.

"The Iraqis don't want to be active in the air war at least for the time being. Maybe they are waiting for a ground war before using their air capabilities," Mr. Rohani was quoted as saying Tuesday.

Tankers

(Continued from page 1)

presented the American ambassador with a strong protest over "this outrageous aggression on innocent Jordanian civilians and their property."

"I told the ambassador that this attack is in violation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions which prevent any attack on civilian targets during war and I made it clear that the Amman-Baghdad road was being used for humanitarian purpose since it is the only way out for the evacuees," Mr. Masri said.

"I told the ambassador that Jordan has been helping the evacuees and offering them humanitarian services and reminded him of the fact that the Security Council has issued a document exempting oil supplies from Iraq to Jordan from the sanctions," Mr. Masri said.

"If the purpose of this attack on Jordanian trucks was to exert pressure on Jordan to change its position, this can never happen and the Jordanian government and parliament and people will remain steadfast and committed to their principles," he said.

Mr. Masri said that he asked the ambassadors to provide Jordan with a pledge that "this incident would never be repeated and no more attacks would take place."

"Jordan reserves the right to take further actions at all levels," if the attacks continued.

"This is the government's initial response to the attacks and it will continue to keep the parliament posted about further details," he said.

Deputies took the floor and expressed outrage over the attacks. Amman Deputy Faris Nabulsi called it "terrorist action."

"This is an act of racism and killers and we must not allow America to shed the blood of our people," Mr. Nabulsi said.

Deputy Fakhri Kawa renewed calls he made at the House for expelling the American ambassador. Mr. Kawa and other deputies called on the government not to continue to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions against Iraq.

"Jordan need not be concerned by the Security Council resolutions, since the aim is not to liberate Kuwait but to destroy Iraq," Deputy Thooqan Hindawi said.

While some deputies denounced the attack on Jordanian civilians, others said that "Jordanian martyrs" were not more important than the Iraqis.

"We and the Iraqis are in one trench," Deputy Yousef Khasawneh said. "We are ready to die all alongside our Iraqi brothers," he said.

Asked about the visit of the American envoy to Jordan, Richard Armitage, 10 days ago, Mr. Masri said that Mr. Armitage was a special envoy of President George Bush. "He wanted to establish contact between us, because contact was broken," Mr. Masri said.

"He (Mr. Armitage) talked about the U.S. position and showed understanding for our position," Mr. Masri said adding the Armitage visit was blown out of proportion.

Earlier in the session, Mr. Masri briefed the House on his visit to Iran last week and his talks with Iranian officials. He said that an Iranian charge d'affaires would arrive in Jordan shortly to open the Iranian embassy in Amman, and his Jordanian counterpart will be heading for Tehran soon for the same purpose.

"Iran is completely aware of the dangers" of foreign intervention in the Gulf, he said.

While Iran rejects Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, they see the ongoing war as destroying Iraq and serving Israeli interests, he said.

He said Iranian officials had assured him they would do their utmost to secure a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

He said while Iranians are neutral in the war itself, they are not neutral as far as the Iraqi people are concerned.

Algeria

(Continued from page 1)

It said envoy Tahar Salim Dehga gave Mr. Qian a letter to Chinese President Yang Shangkun from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Indonesia told Iraq Wednesday that if it wanted to strengthen the Arab hand on the Palestine issue then it should pull out of Kuwait and not worry about losing face.

"Indonesia once again calls for Iraq to pull out from Kuwait," Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told parliament.

"We do not consider the withdrawal to be an embarrassment. Quite the contrary, it will strengthen the Non-Aligned Movement and Arab countries in their legal demand for Israel to withdraw from Palestine," he said.

Cuba has called for a formal meeting of the Security Council to discuss ways of stopping the Gulf war and achieving a negotiated settlement with Iraq.

The Cuban news agency Prensa Latina said the request was made in a letter from Cuba's U.N. ambassador, Ricardo Alarcon, to the current president of the 15-nation Security Council, the ambassador of Zaire.

Mr. Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitaly Ignatenko, said earlier in Moscow that the Kremlin was

discussing a series of ideas for an end to the Gulf war with Western countries, including the United States.

Washington

(Continued from page 1)

is engaged in a war in the Middle East.

The president said his country was engaged overseas in a struggle against a threat to "decency and humanity."

With America's "indispensable" leadership, Iraq's "lawless aggression" would not stand, Mr. Bush asserted.

"What is at stake is more than one small country; it is a big idea: a new world order" in which the common cause of nations is "peace, security, freedom, and the rule of law," Mr. Bush said.

The president said the new, enduring peace which his country seeks to build is one that is based not on arms races and confrontation but on shared principles and the rule of law.

"We must make sure that control of the world's oil resources does not fall into (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's) hands," Mr. Bush said adding that U.S. efforts to drive Iraq out of Kuwait were "on course."

"Iraq's capacity to sustain war is being destroyed," he asserted to the American public. "Time will not be Saddam's salvation."

Mr. Bush reiterated that U.S. aims in the Gulf remained "constant" — to drive Iraq out of Kuwait, restore Kuwait's "legitimate" government and ensure stability and security in the region.

The president said his country had worked to avoid an unwanted war in the Gulf. He cited some of the Arab and Western leaders whom he said

had worked for a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis, among them King Fahd and King Hassan, but he made no reference to Jordan's repeated efforts to seek a peaceful settlement to the crisis.

In what some analysts saw as primarily a foreign policy speech, Mr. Bush said the U.S.'s responsibility to act as a catalyst for peace would not end once the Gulf war is over. But he did not elaborate on what type of peace arrangement the world would expect from U.S.

"We must step forward and accept our responsibility to lead the world away from the dark chaos of dictators," he said.

The president said he had already given orders that the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) programme be refocused to provide protection from limited ballistic missile strikes. He praised the technology of the U.S.-made Patriot missiles which enabled U.S. allies to defend themselves against Iraqi missile attacks.

Senate majority leader George Mitchell delivered the Democrats' response to the president's speech, a response which reflected the unity of foreign policy objectives among the American public but the differences between Democrats and Republicans regarding the domestic agenda.

Mr. Mitchell highlighted the fact that Democrats and Republicans were seeking the same end in the Gulf crisis — an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He pointed out, however, that most Democrats in Capitol Hill had favoured the option of allowing more time for economic sanctions to take their effect and force Iraq out of Kuwait.

"The difference was not in the goals but in the means: whether force should be used immediately or only as a last resort if other means failed. No one will ever know if that other course would have worked," he

said. Mr. Mitchell seemed to hint that the two terms of the Reagan administration and the first two years of the Bush administration were responsible for what he called the mistake of the U.S. policy favouring Iraq. "For ten years, U.S. policy favoured Iraq. We can't repeat that kind of mistake," he said.

The Senate majority leader hinted at the need for consistency in the standards applied in U.S. foreign policy. "We cannot oppose oppression in one place, and overlook it another," he said and cited student massacres in China, the murder of priests in Latin America and the shooting deaths of demonstrators in Lithuania.

Mr. Mitchell said although the allies had not contributed their fair share to the coalition in terms of financial obligations, Israel had "done much" by its "refusal to be provoked." In that context, he said, the Gulf crisis had given "powerful new proof" of the importance of the U.S.-Israeli friendship.

Mr. Bush praised Egypt for its "miraculous" leadership in the allied coalition.

Mr. Bush received a private message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, delivered by the country's foreign minister, Esmat Abdul Meguid. The foreign minister described the message's contents in part as "portraying the very strong relations between Egypt and the United States and reiterating the strong stand that Egypt is taking with the situation in the Gulf."

Mr. Bush gave him a message to take back to Mr. Mubarak, Abdul Meguid said.

Mr. Bush also met Tuesday with Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, and thanked him for his nation's support in the Gulf war.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) BRANCH OFFICE (BO), AMMAN

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4. Logistic Assistant	University degree or diploma, experience in warehousing, customs clearance and related formalities. (Candidates with long experience and in-depth knowledge in customs clearance and formalities but no adequate academic qualifications would be considered).
5. Legal Assistant	University degree in Law or International Relations/Social Sciences and at least two years of relevant experience.
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Jordan Times

Economy

Bush wants immediate interest rate cuts and more bank lending

U.S. consumer confidence tumbles to 10-year low

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. consumer confidence in January plunged to its lowest level in 10 years, but the U.S.-led war on Iraq saved the nation's economic mood from an even steeper tumble, a leading business research group said Tuesday.

The Conference Board reported in its monthly survey that economic confidence was down sharply in the first two weeks of January as Americans became disillusioned by the failure of diplomatic attempts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully.

But following the allied attack on Jan. 16-17, Americans became somewhat more optimistic in their economic expectations, the board reported.

Fabian Linden, executive director of the Conference Board's Consumer Research center, said the uplifted mood during January's second half was "presumably because early indications suggested a short war. A reasonably quick victory might well provide the psychological thrust to invigorate the economy."

The consumer confidence index of 54.0 in January, down from 61.3 in December, was only slightly above the figure recorded in the depths of the 1981-82 recession, the Conference Board said.

The Conference Board is a business-funded economic research organization headquartered in New York. The monthly survey of 5,000 U.S. households is conducted for the Board by National Family Opinion Inc. of Toledo, Ohio.

In Washington President George Bush voiced optimism Tuesday that the U.S. economy would soon pull out of recession and called for renewed efforts to encourage economic growth and long-term investments.

In his annual State of the Union address to Congress, Bush called for lower interest rates and urged banks to increase lending to help lift the economy out of recession.

"I do think there has been too much pessimism," Bush said. "Sound banks should be making more sound loans, now — and interest rates should be lower, now."

Bush told Congress his budget package would include incentives for savings and a reduction in capital gains taxes — a proposal that was rejected by U.S. lawmakers last year.

The package will also include a new optional energy strategy to encourage conservation and oil and gas development, more spending on research and development and an overhaul of America's battered banking industry.

Administration officials said the package did not include proposals specifically to attack the current recession, which they expect to be over before Congress would be able to enact any legislation.

"There is no shock treatment, the best way to deal with this is over the long term," one senior

official said. Bush said he saw reasons to be optimistic that the economy would pull out of recession soon. "We will get this recession behind us, and return to growth — soon," he said. Inflation is down, and low business inventories mean factories will not have to make big cuts in production to cope with slackening demand, he noted.

"Our exports are running solid and strong," he added. "We must recognize that our economic strength depends upon being competitive in world markets."

Administration officials said the capital gains proposal will be similar to one Bush proposed last year and envisages reducing the tax rate to 19.6 per cent on the sale of assets such as stocks and bonds held at least three years. Capital gains currently are taxed at 28 per cent.

To order to avoid the political bickering over the impact of a capital gains tax cut on the budget deficit, Bush said he is asking Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to head up a study on the issue.

Bush has said reducing capital gains will spur growth and lead to more tax revenues, while opponents of the idea argue it is a long-term loser for the treasury.

The Treasury Department is expected to release a study on banking reform in the next few days and the administration plans to send a proposed bill to Congress by mid-February.

World Bank announces higher loans and income

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank, biggest source of aid to the Third World, announced Tuesday that its loans totalled \$96.8 billion at the end of 1990.

The World Bank's lending limit is \$150.3 billion.

The bank said it was also making more money — \$797 million in the last half of the year, after it put aside \$201 million as a reserve against possible losses.

The comparable figure in 1989 was \$556 million.

The bank makes most of its money by investing, at advantageous rates, the proceeds of the bonds it sells. It pays comparatively low rates of interest on its own bonds, since its capital is guaranteed by the 154 governments that own it, including the United States.

The World Bank borrowed the equivalent of \$6.3 billion over the last six months of 1990 — 38 per cent of it in U.S. dollars, 35 per cent in Deutschmarks, 18 per cent in Swiss francs and nine per cent in Japanese yen.

The average borrowing cost was 8.32 per cent. Its total borrowings amounted to \$94.9 billion.

The bank lent out the equivalent of \$5.6 billion to governments in need at a variable interest rate close to market rates, through the window called the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

The poorest countries got another \$2 billion in loans for as long as 40 years at less than one per cent interest, through the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA).

American Jews rush to help

Sale of Israeli bonds in U.S. brings \$65m during last 10 days

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors have bought \$65 million in Israeli bonds in just over a week in an emergency campaign to raise money for the country since the outbreak of war in the Middle East, officials said Tuesday.

Also, a new stock fund composed of U.S. companies that do business with Israel is reporting growing interest since Israel started firing missiles at Iraq during its war with allied forces led by the United States.

The interest in stocks and bonds connected with Israel comes predominantly from Jewish Americans seeking to help the country weather the crisis, officials said.

The bond sales, by the New York-based Development Corp. for Israel, are designed in part to make up for a projected loss of \$1.6 billion a year from tourism, which evaporated after Iraq invaded Kuwait last August.

The two-week effort to sell \$100 million in bonds worldwide had been planned in advance of the United Nations deadline on Jan. 15 for Iraq to abandon Kuwait. Iraq had promised to attack Israel in the event of a war.

Officials did not mention the possible war when appealing for sales of the bonds, but noted that Israel was being overwhelmed with Soviet emigrants who needed housing at a time when the country's defence needed attention.

Bond sales began Jan. 18, two days after Iraq launched its first missile attack on Israel. Through Tuesday, the Development Corp. for Israel sold \$65 million in bonds, spokesman Mark Benson said. The campaign ends Feb. 3.

"While the war is going on the gates of Israel remain open and we have a flow of immigrants," said Meir Rosenne, president of the organization and a former Israeli ambassador to the United States.

The Israeli bonds, begun by Israel's first prime minister David Ben Gurion, were first sold 40 years ago. Israel issued \$767 million in bonds last year.

Officials said the bonds are not used on military defence but to pay for building roads, housing, railways, power stations and other economic development projects in Israel.

Benson said the bonds carry varying maturity dates and interest rates ranging from four per cent to more than eight per cent.

Thomas Sarkany, president of Startrade Fund Inc., said the pro-Israel mutual fund has received "a steady stream of calls" for information in recent weeks.

The fund, which began marketing just six weeks ago, is composed of companies whose shares are traded in U.S. securities markets and do some business with Israel.

"The premise is that these companies are the best opportunity for Israel to achieve economic growth," Sarkany said.

To date, about \$1 million has been invested in Startrade's four funds, he said. Among the companies included are International Business Machines Corp., Motorola Inc., Digital Equipment Corp., PepsiCo Inc. and Atari Corp.

Meanwhile, U.S. companies said their operations in Israel were continuing cautiously despite

disruptions from the Gulf war. Officials with about a dozen firms said they had no plans to scale back or withdraw from Israel because of repeated missile attacks by Iraq on the city of Tel Aviv and other areas.

But some American companies have increased production from points outside Israel just in case. Also, Israeli government officials recently increased incentives to lure more foreign investment.

Several firms said they shut down operations during the war's first days. One small high-technology company is allowing employees to work from their homes in Israel and has offered jobs in the United States for a few months. No one has accepted U.S. transfers, citing the need to stay with relatives.

"We're very concerned about our people. We're located just a few miles from where the bombs are falling in Tel Aviv," an official with the company said Tuesday. The firm asked not to be identified out of concern for employee safety.

Many firms have increased communications with Israeli affiliates and are allowing Israeli nationals working in the United States to call family members regularly.

"They are working under as normal conditions as they can," said General Microwave President Sherman Rinkel. The Amityville, New York, company makes components for military electronic warfare and radar systems at a plant in occupied Jerusalem.

General Microwave shut down the factory for two days after the war began Jan. 17. Rinkel said customer apprehensions about the plant's ability to produce and deliver have led the firm to back up Israeli production in the United States.

But he said: "No one feels we've made a mistake by being there as a result of this war. We were quite aware that this was a part of the world where there were risks because of instability."

Israel is considered attractive for many U.S. companies because of a highly skilled work force, including tens of thousands of arriving Soviet emigres, and aggressive tax breaks and other incentives offered by the Israeli government.

More than 200 U.S. companies now do business in Israel. According to the Israeli government's economic mission in New York, total foreign investment in Israel was \$325 million in 1989, about double the 1985 total but down \$338 million in 1988.

Officials in Israel say foreign investment has been hurt by the Palestinian uprising that began in December 1987. They are promoting a business-as-usual attitude in the face of war.

Five weeks ago, Israel enhanced incentives for foreign companies, adding loan guarantees for new investors, offering larger grants and increasing tax breaks.

Menem appoints new minister to tackle troubled economy

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The government Tuesday

promised to halt sharp currency devaluations that brought the economy to a near standstill and pushed up prices for some consumer goods.

President Carlos Menem, meanwhile, rearranged his cabinet for the second time in two weeks following the resignation of some of his senior economic advisers.

Seeking to halt triple-digit inflation, Menem ordered the central bank to maintain Monday's exchange rate of 8,000 australs for \$1, a 38 per cent devaluation since Dec. 15. When the currency was introduced in 1985, one austral was worth \$1.20.

Banks and foreign exchange houses, which were closed Monday night by the government,

were ordered to reopen Wednesday.

Stores suspended credit card sales, and many closed early for fear of selling goods at prices that would not allow them to restock.

The stock exchange Tuesday suspended trading.

Wholesale beef prices surged 30 per cent Tuesday at the Lúners National Stockyard outside Buenos Aires. Oil refineries said an exchange rate of 8,000-1 would force them to hike gas prices by at least 8 per cent.

Among those resigning Monday night — after the austral nosedived 12.5 per cent against the dollar — were the treasury and agriculture secretaries.

In the new cabinet, foreign minister Domingo Cavallo, a Harvard-trained economist, will replace Antonio Gonzalez as economy minister.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Stocks ended lower in thin volume, with trading dominated by interest in high-priced, small capital issues with potential for March bonus issues. The Nikkei fell 50.51 to 23,409.61.

SYDNEY — Support for leading industrials gave the Australian sharemarket an afternoon boost, pushing it to its fourth successive gain. The All Ordinaries index rose 10 points to 1,314.

HONG KONG — Prices reversed light losses to end slightly firmer. The Hang Seng rose 7.99 points to 3,200.89.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed slightly lower. "The market is consolidating after rises in the past weeks," said one broker. The Straits Times closed at 1,248.44, down 2.06 points.

BOMBAY — (Closed).

FRANKFURT — Domestic and foreign buying pushed the market up by 1.5 per cent. The DAX rose 20.47 points to close at 1,400.73.

ZURICH — Lower interest rates and favourable company news helped lighten Gulf war news, pushing Swiss shares up 1.66 per cent in lively trading. The all-share SPI closed 15.1 points firmer at 924.2.

PARIS — French share prices rose in heavy trading on revived expectations that interest rates may be headed lower, traders said. The CAC-40 climbed 27.96, or 1.80 per cent to end at 1,582.45 in active trading.

LONDON — Institutions came back into the market sending shares up 38.8 points, or 1.8 per cent to a peak for 1991 and the highest close since Dec. 28. The FTSE 100 index closed at 2,152.6.

NEW YORK — U.S. Blue Chips surged to fresh session highs in afternoon trading, gaining about 1.6 per cent on suggestions of allied Gulf war successes. The Dow rose about 42 to 2,704.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, January 30, 1991
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	665.0	669.0
Pound Sterling	1384.9	1312.7
Deutschmark	445.5	448.2
Swiss franc	226.5	229.7
French franc	131.3	132.7
Japanese yen (for 100)	504.8	507.8
Dutch guilder	395.1	397.5
Swedish crown	119.4	120.1
Italian lire (for 100)	59.4	60.8
Belgian franc (for 100)	216.4	217.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.9570/80	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1590/1600	Canadian dollar
	1.4933/40	Deutschmarks
	1.6827/37	Dutch guilders
	1.2647/57	Swiss francs
	30.73/78	Belgian francs
	5.0650/0700	French francs
	1119/1120	Italian lire
	131.50/60	Japanese yen
	5.5700/50	Swedish crowns
	5.8350/8400	Norwegian crowns
	5.7380/30	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	370.70/371.20	U.S. dollars

Officials doubt Soviet ability to continue oil exports after 1993

MOSCOW (AP) — Oil officials are warning that a disastrous decline in Soviet oil output could force the country to stop exporting oil and start importing it by the end of 1993.

Since oil provides a major part of Soviet export earnings, such a reversal of fortunes could wreak havoc on the already crumbling economy.

A shortage of spare parts for

notoriously shoddy equipment has forced down oil production from 558 million tons in 1989 to 552 million tons in 1990, Evgeny Kochev, chief engineer of the ministry of oil and gas, said Tuesday in an interview with the Associated Press.

He forecast a further drop to 528 million tons this year.

That would amount to a 10 per cent decline in just two years for the world's largest oil-producing nation.

Officials of the nation's largest oilfield in Tyumen are warning President Mikhail Gorbachev that the drop in oil production is even more precipitous, and could turn the country from an oil exporter to an oil importer in as little as three years. Pravda said Monday.

Tyumen officials have been complaining for months that their facilities are crumbling due to severe shortages of spare parts for drills, pumps, and pipelines. Most industries across the Soviet Union are suffering from shortages of raw materials and spare parts, leading to a vicious circle of declining production at one factory after another.

Oil production in the Tyumen district alone dropped 30 million tons in 1990 and could fall another 50 million tons this year, Pravda said, quoting a letter to Gorbachev from the area's government, business, union and Communist Party officials.

That would put total output near 500 million tons this year. The Soviet Union has been using 425 million-475 million tons of oil

domestically, according to various estimates.

The Soviet domestic market has been starved for gasoline this year, with Aeroflot planes stalled in remote Siberian towns for lack of gas for combine harvesters.

Soviet oil exports already have dropped 20-25 per cent in the past two years, International Monetary Fund experts estimate.

The Soviet petroleum industry has been hard hit by three years of political strikes and ethnic violence in Azerbaijan. Its capital of Baku is both the site of significant oil fields and two-thirds of the nation's factories for oil drilling and production equipment.

Oil industry officials also complain of a shortage of government investment in both exploration and production facilities.



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MUNICIPALITY OF GREATER AMMAN AMMAN TRANSPORT & MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (Loan No. 2334 - JO) SECOND EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE

The Municipality of Greater Amman announces the extension of the closing date of the Road Maintenance Equipment Tender until March 4, 1991.

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Kamel Shinnawi
in
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(Arabic)

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تدشين محطة في ديرعمار تغذي منطقة المنية بالكهرباء



الوزير يمشي مع مشايخ المنطقة والى جانبه النائب العام.

وزير الاقتصاد والتجارة في مصر

تلبية لدعوة وزير التجهيز والتجارة الداخلية المصري الدكتور مصطفى يسري، سافر السيد إلى القاهرة لزيارة الاقتصاد والتجارة السيد مروان حمادة للمشاركة في رعاية توقيع اتفاق التعاون والتوأمة بين غرفتي التجارة والصناعة في مصر والإسكندرية.

وافتتح قبل سفره ان إضرابه هدفين:

الاول مواصلة المحادثات الاقتصادية والتجارية وصولا الى توقيع اتفاق تجاري جديد بين لبنان ومصر، مشيرا الى انه ليرسل

الى القاهرة قبل ايام لاجتماعات التجارة التي يمكن ان تعطي من الرسوم الجمركية

وطالب بموافقة السلطات المصرية على اللائحة اللبنانية. والثاني رعاية توقيع اتفاق التوأمة.

هيكلية تعيينات ورواتب في تلفزيون لبنان

امير رئيس مجلس الادارة المدير العام لشركة تلفزيون لبنان السيد جورج سكاف

مفكرة تضمنت الهيكلية الجديدة للشركة وتعيينات ورواتبها. حيث حددت ١٧ موظفا من

الفئات الاولى والثانية والثالثة وبطاليف خارج المخطط، وحدثت نوع الوظيفة والوقت والراتب لكثير من الفئات

الادارية. واستحدثت وظائف جديدة لمواكبة العمل التطويري ابرزها تعيين مساعدين

للمدير العام في محطتي تلة الشياطين والحمزة، فحين السيد الفرد بركات

مساعدا للمدير العام لشؤون التنمية والبرامج ومديرا للبرامج والتأليف والسيد

محمد كريمة لشؤون التقنية والادارية والسيد الياس الزغبي مديرا لمكتب المدير

العام والسيد عرفات حجازي مديرا للبرامج الاخبارية والسياسية.

وارققت صيغة تسوية الموظفين المتقاعدين عن العمل والمسافرين والمتقاعدين بمؤسسات اخرى عن طريق

مراجعة من الخدمة يدفع ما يتبقى لهم من تعويضات.

وارققت الهيكلية الجديدة بمسألة جديدة للرواتب بحيث صار راتب الحد

الادبي مع حد الانشطة لا يقل عن ٢٢٠ دولارا اميركا حشريما وتصل الرواتب في

حددا الاعلى الى ما يقارب ١٠٠٠ دولار، الى تقديرات على صعيد الاستشفاء

والواء والمنتج المدرسية وبدايات التحصيل والطعام والشحرون الاشفيين ومكائنت

تشجيعية ومنع اخرى.

وكانت جمعية مفار لبنان على

اعضاءها وجوب التوقف عن اعمال الكيف

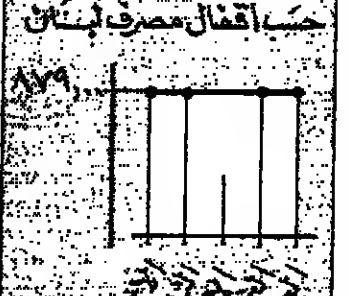
والنفع غدا وفقا لما جرت العادة، فقتل

الشبابك امام الزنزان ليتمكن الموظفون من الانصراف الى اعمالهم الدائمية لاقبال

حسابات السنة.

تطور العملات في بيروت

تطور أسعار الدولار حسب أقفال مصرف لبنان



يوميا بالنا الدولار بـ ٨٧٠٠٠ ليرة الى ان

اقلته الجمعة ٢٧ كانون الاول بهذا السعر،

هأنه منذ مطلع الشهر.

وهو كان فتح الاثنين الماضي بـ ٨٧٠٠٠ ليرة وفي مجملها طوال ايام العمل على هذا

السعر بعدما باتت السوق محكومة بمسألة مصرف لبنان المرافقة الى تثبيت اسعار

المصرف خصوصا في هذه الفترة التي شهدت توسعا في الاتفاق العام نتيجة دفع

مستحقات زيادة الرواتب الى موظفي الدولة، الامر الذي قد كثيرا من مبادرات

متناولي القطع بحيث باتوا امام خيارين، اما التعامل بالاسعار الجديدة شراء وبيعا

للدولار واما الانسحاب من السوق، وهنا ما تأكد لهم على ان القيام، اذ ما ان كان يحاول

البعض منهم اقتعال طلب على الورقة الخضراء حتى ينبري الى مصرف لبنان بالنا

ويجعله على التكيف سريعا.

وهكذا بقيت المرافقة مرة اخرى المسألة الاساسية للسوق على رغم تحسب

المتعاملين لمخاطر التوسع في الاتفاق العام وما قد ينتج عنه من تضخم مالي ان

يأبى ان يستجيب تصحيحا للاجور في القطاع الخاص وزيادة جديدة في حجم

الكتلة النقدية من شأنها الضغط على سعر صرف الليرة مع اطلالة السنة الجديدة، الا

صفت الحكومة في اشتداد كل مؤامرات وسعيها الدؤوب الى الحصول على مصادر

مالية خارجية لاعادة تأهيل النسيب المتدهور في البلاد والتخفيفات التي تقوم بها غير

عائلة لبنانية مع التفتية ايضا بان السكن جهة محلية والقيمة لياضرا اعمار وسط

بيروت التجاري في الربع المقبل من شأنها ايجاد منابع استثماري ملام

للسايل اللبنانية امهارة مساعد على نمو الدخل الوطني رغم تحسين ميزان

المضوعات وعلى الحد من عزج الموالاة المدفوعات وعلى الحد من عزج الموالاة

العام مع ما لكك من تآثر ايجابي على سعر صرف الليرة.

توقف عن التراجع ازاء العملات الأوروبية

في الخارج، ان الدولار الى التماسك

قليل عتبة علة الاسود اراء العملات الأوروبية، فيما في شعيا اراء الين

الياباني التي تاملت الطلب عليه كثيرا في الفترة الاخيرة في موازاة تزايد

احتيالات رفع اسعار صرفه للحد من العجز التجاري الايجري مع اليابان واما

التداول ان المتعاملين باتوا غير عابدين بتجديد الحديث عن خفض اضافي لمعد

الفائدة الأوروبية، بعد ان كان اسود على خفض الاحتيالات الفيدرالي معدل الخصم

لنيه من ١٢/٢ الى ١٢/٢ في السنة، فبعد ان كان ١٢/٢ الى ١٢/٢ في السنة، فبعد ان كان

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تطور العملات في بيروت

العمل فيه على اربعة ايام بسبب علة

المعامل، تميزت سوق القطع في بيروت

بالغياب التام للتقلبات بين يوم وآخر كما في الاسووين اللين سبها، فحافظت

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تطور العملات في بيروت

العمل فيه على اربعة ايام بسبب علة

المعامل، تميزت سوق القطع في بيروت

بالغياب التام للتقلبات بين يوم وآخر كما في الاسووين اللين سبها، فحافظت

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مصرف لبنان منتصف كانون الأول

احتياط القطع تراجع ٥,٥ ملايين دولار والنقد المتداول ارتفع ١٩,٨٧ مليا ليرة

أظهر البيان الموجز الذي أصدره مصرف لبنان السبت الماضي عن وضعه منتصف كانون الأول مقارنة بما كان آخر تشرين الثاني تراجع احتياطي القطع من ذهب و عملات اجنبية و"محفظة السندات المالية"، وارتفعاً في بنود "محفظة للقطاع العام" و"بنود على القطاع الخاص" و"موجبات مختلفة اخرى" في باب الموجبات. في حين ارتفعت ارقام بنود "النقد المتداول خارج مصرف لبنان" و"بنود المصارف" و"بنود القطاع العام الاجنبية" و"فروقات قطع عملات اجنبية" و"مطلوبات اخرى مختلفة"، وتراجعت ارقام بنود "بنود القطاع العام تحت الطلب" و"فروقات قطع الذهب" و"محفظة القطاع الخاص"، وبقيت بنود "الاموال الخاصة" هو هو في باب المطلوبات.

ولمراجعه مجموع الميزانية نحو ٢٥,٥٤ مليار ليرة. اذ بلغ منتصف كانون الاول ٤٤٤,٢٩٠ مليار ليرة في مقابل ٤٤٦,٨٤ مليار ليرة في آخر تشرين الثاني.

وهنا التغييرات:

١ - تراجعت ارقام بند "موجبات من ذهب و عملات اجنبية" نحو ٢٧,٢٨ مليار ليرة نتيجة انخفاض سعر صرف الدولار من ٨٧٩,٥٠ الى ٨٧٠,٠٠ ليرة في النصف الاول من كانون

الاول وسعر اوقصة الذهب من ٣٧٦,٩٠ الى ٣٧٩,٤٠ دولارا في الفترة نفسها من جهة، وإلى تدني احتياط القطع لدى مصرف لبنان نحو ٥,٥ ملايين دولار من جهة اخرى، اذ تبين انه بلغ منتصف كانون الاول مليارا و ١٤٥,٠ مليون دولار في مقابل مليار و ٢٧٠ مليون دولار في آخر

تشرين الثاني نتيجة تدخله في سوق القطع بالنا الدولار بـ ٨٧٠,٠٠ ليرة للحد من الشفوط التي كان يتولى البعض ممارستها على الليرة عتبة دفع فروقات زيادة الرواتب الى موظفي القطاع العام قبل ٢٢ كانون الاول.

٢ - ارتفعت ارقام بند "محفظة للقطاع العام" نحو ١٢,٥٧ مليار ليرة نتيجة تغطية اعباء الخزينة.

٣ - ارتفعت ارقام بند "موجبات مختلفة اخرى" نحو ٣,٠٢٧ مليار ليرة.

٤ - تراجعت ارقام بند "محفظة السندات المالية" نحو ٤,١٢٥ مليون ليرة لتراجع حصة مصرف لبنان في الاكتتابات الاسبوعية لسندات الخزينة التي جاءت اصداراتها

موزانة مع الاستحقاقات اجمالا.

٦ - ارتفعت ارقام بند "النقد المتداول خارج مصرف لبنان" نحو ١٩,٨٧ مليار ليرة لشحه مزيدا من السيولة في السوق في هذه الفترة لتسويل الاتفاق العام.

٧ - وسعا ذلك، ارتفعت ارقام بند "بنود المصارف" نحو ١١,٩٦٠ مليار ليرة.

٨ - بقيت "محفظة تجاه القطاع الخاص"، تراجعت ارقام "بنود القطاع العام تحت الطلب" نحو ٣ مليارات و ١٩٨ مليون ليرة، في حين ارتفعت ارقام "بنود القطاع العام

المجمعة"، وهي في معظمها من العملات الاجنبية. نحو ١٠ مليارات و ٩٩٥ مليون ليرة، مما يشير الى تعزيز هذا الحساب بمشتريات قطع اجنبي، اما بالنسبة الى "فروقات

القطع"، فقد سجلت تراجعا ملحوظا في حق "الذهب"، نحو ٢٨,٥٧ مليار ليرة نتيجة تراجع سعر الاوقصة من ٣٧٦,٩٠ الى ٣٧٩,٤٠ دولارا في النصف الاول من كانون الاول، فيما

لم يترا على سعر صرف الدولار تغيير يذكر في هذه الفترة، في حين ارتفعت في حق "العملات الاجنبية" نحو ٥,١٩٦ مليارات ليرة على رغم استقرار سعر صرف الدولار.

٩ - تراجعت ارقام بند "محفظة تجاه القطاع الخاص" نحو ٥٥٧ مليون ليرة لانحاص المصارف عن الايداع لاجل لدى مصرف لبنان تحسبا للسحوبات من مصاديقها التي

تطرأ عادة في هذه الفترة من السنة.

١٠ - بقي بند "الام